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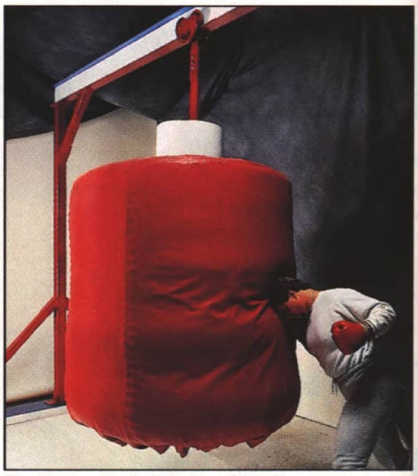

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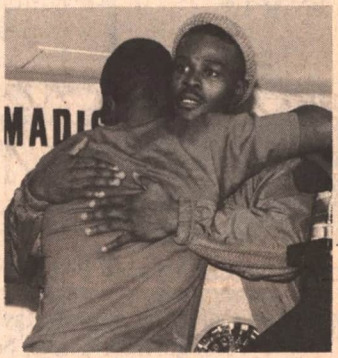

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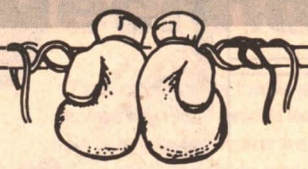

It was after the seventh round at Madison Square Garden, and trainer Pepe Correa was screaming in Ray Leonard's vacant face. Leonard winced as cutman Eddie Aliano pressed a gauze pad against his raw, bloody lower lip. The fighter, 34 and aging, grimaced as water from a spray bottle fell into his eyes and down his face. Suddenly, the ringside doctor was an inch away from his face.

"You all right, Ray?"

A barely detectable nod.

At that point, and maybe for the first time, I realized that it wasn't meant for us to understand why great fighters keep fighting.

I'm sure it's not to give the press something to write about, but Sugar Ray did that till the end. A good portion of the words and pictures in this issue feature Leonard, as they should. After all, he dared to be great in an age when greatness is more precious than ever before.

Managing Editor Jeff Ryan was ringside in Las Vegas for Leonard's greatest triumph, his unlikely victory over Marvin Hagler, so it was appropriate that he cover Sugar Ray's last fight (page 34).

"I always thought there'd never be another Ali," Ryan said, "but Leonard was the closest we ever had. He worked the miracles only Ali seemed to be able to work. And at the end, it was only fitting that he, just like Ali, couldn't pull off the last miracle."

In 1976, columnist Michael Katz thought that the glitter surrounding Leonard was nothing more than the result of Howard Cosell's excess verbiage. As a new decade began, he changed his mind. I asked Katz to place the five-division champion's career in historical perspective (page 16). Leonard, he concluded, can mingle comfortably with the legends of *any* era.

"He was the modern era's pathfinder," Katz said. "He was able to do what no one before had done." That applies inside the ring and out.

In the centerfold, you'll find color photos highlighting Sugar Ray's remarkable career. Benitez. Hagler. Hearns. Duran. Leonard missed no one. In all, he fought seven world champions and defeated each one—except for Terry Norris.

The best part of Leonard's farewell is that is will force us to recognize boxing's young stars. You can be sure that Norris will never starve for attention, nor should Pernell Whitaker, Evander Holyfield, Virgil Hill, Riddick Bowe, Michael Moorer, Michael Nunn, Simon Brown, or the subject of this month's cover story, Meldrick Taylor.

Sugar Ray, I'm sure, would be the first to admit that it's their time, not his.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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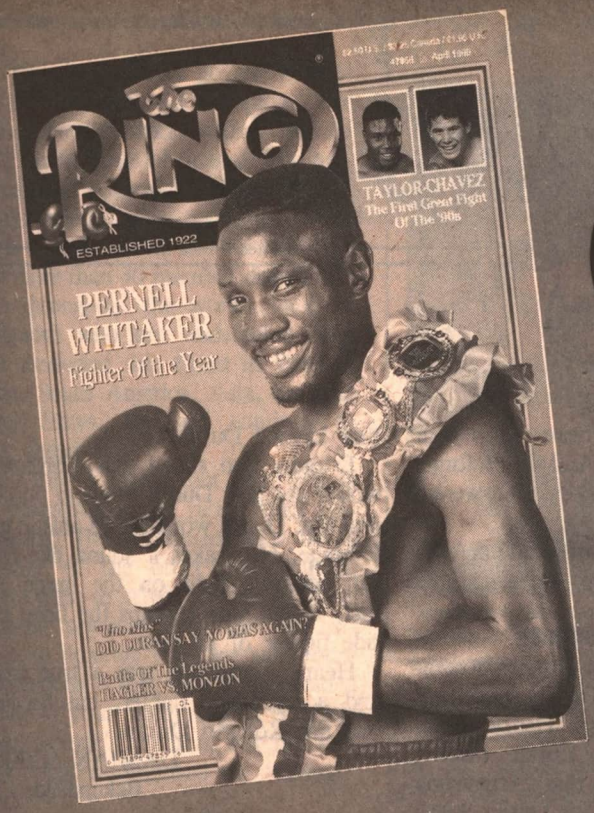

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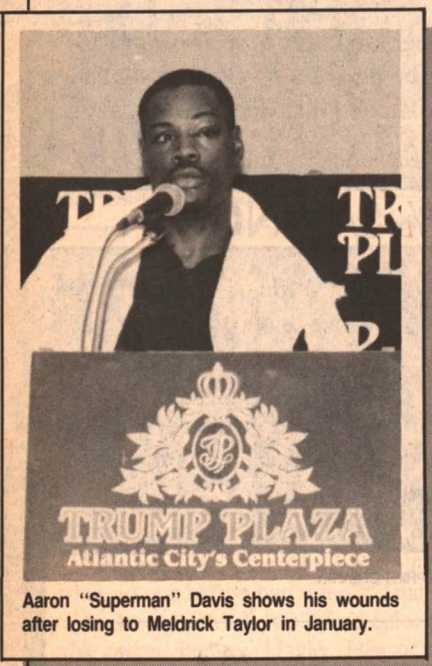
COME OUT WRITING

The Ring, as always, welcomes and appreciates comments, questions, and criticism. Send your letters to The Ring, P.O. Box 768, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9905. Be aware that letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

SUPPORT FOR SUPERMAN

After viewing several of Aaron "Superman" Davis' fights, I can't help but compare him to another Bronx brawler, Iran Barkley. Both rely more on heart and will than ability and skill.

Like Barkley, Davis won his title via unexpected and exciting knockout.



Aaron "Superman" Davis shows his wounds after losing to Meldrick Taylor in January.

Like Barkley, he lost his title in his first defense. Like Barkley, he has a tendency to cut and swell. And, like Barkley, he has built a following stemming from his early days at the Felt Forum.

Barkley became a hero to me, always the underdog, yet, with each outing, gaining more respect. I have taken a similar liking to Davis. Against Meldrick Taylor, he was revealed as a clubfighter who had succeeded with an incredible amount of heart. Keep your head up, Superman. And don't forget that, just like Iran Barkley, you were a world champion.

BEN RICKARD
Durango, CO

THE LEGENDARY DURAN

I disagree with Don Dunphy's comments in the "Battle Of The Legends" featuring welterweights Henry Armstrong vs. Roberto Duran (March 1991). Dunphy said that Armstrong would have knocked out Duran "with a shot to the jaw in the fifth round." First of all, Duran just does not get knocked out with a shot to the jaw. He has been kayoed only once in his career, by Thomas Hearns, and what would have happened had Hearns hit Armstrong with the same right hand that kayoed Duran?

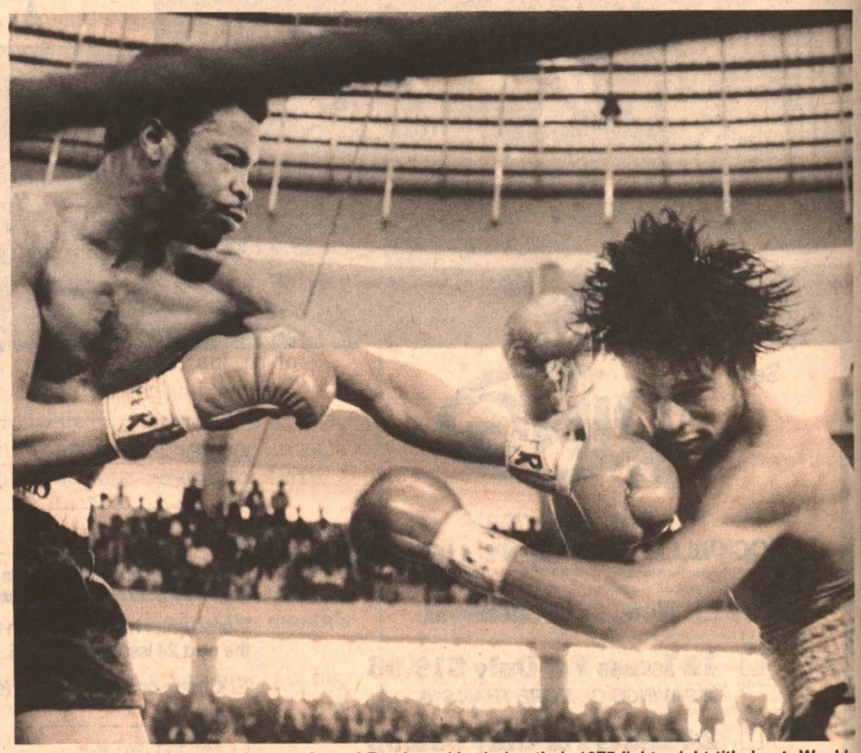
Dunphy also stated that Armstrong would not give Duran room to punch, and that Duran wouldn't be able to get leverage. He makes it sound like Duran couldn't fight on the inside. In fact, Duran was perhaps the finest inside fighter of all time.

Henry Armstrong was a true great and a legendary fighter, but he just was not Roberto Duran.

DAMIAN MYERS
Bakersfield, CA

RECOGNIZING THE WBO

Your continued censorship of the WBO by withholding the factual reporting of our title fights is most distressing. Additionally, your published world ratings of "the rankings of box-



Roberto Duran stood up to the punches of Ray Lampkin during their 1975 lightweight title bout. Would the Panamanian be able to absorb the blows of welterweight Henry Armstrong?

ing's three international governing bodies" is misleading and deceptive. The heading on the world ratings should read "the rankings of three of boxing's international governing bodies."

Nevertheless, your continued overt efforts to bury us will not succeed. We have more than 40 member delegations from throughout the world, have 10 champions who are undefeated, and have conducted title fights in Europe, Africa, South America, Asia, and the United States. We will continue to move ahead.

It is truly a shame that your criteria for recognition is age rather than performance. The continued soap opera of some of the other organizations doesn't seem to affect your recognition of those organizations, yet our attempts to honestly compete with those organizations is met with a blindfolded attitude by your publication. I certainly respect anyone's opinion, but not editorial opinions disguised as "factual" reports.

ED LEVINE
Coral Gables, FL

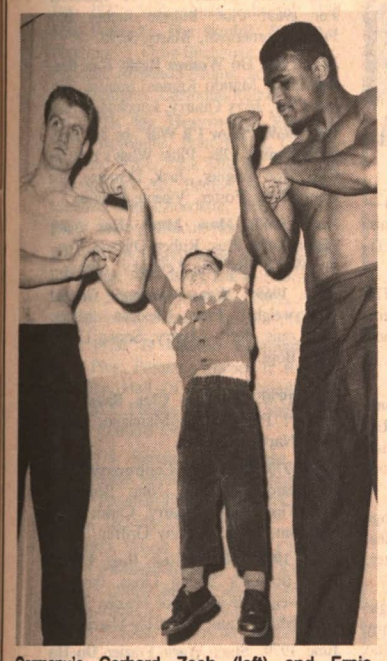
Editor's Note: Ed Levine is the president of the WBO's Championship Committee.

WAS TERRELL A CHAMP?

I'm hoping you can help me answer two questions concerning Ernie Terrell. First of all, was Terrell a legitimate world champion in the '60s? And, secondly, if he was, why wasn't Muhammad Ali recognized universally? After all, Ali had stopped the reigning world champion, Sonny Liston.

BILL MILDEN
Springfield, IL

Editor's Note: Terrell was indeed recognized as a legitimate champion. Ali (then Cassius Clay) dethroned Liston in February 1964. After he signed to meet Liston in an immediate rematch, which was against the WBA's rules, he was stripped of the WBA title. Terrell decisioned Eddie Machen to capture the vacant crown in March 1965. He successfully defended against George Chuvalo and Doug Jones. In February 1967, he lost on points to Ali in a unification match.



Germany's Gerhard Zech (left) and Ernie Terrell give a boost to a fan in a 1964 publicity photo. Terrell defeated Zech on points.

Evander Holyfield executed his fight plan to perfection against Buster Douglas. Reader Jonathan Lynch believes the heavyweight champion would also adapt to the styles of Foreman, Tyson, and Ruddock.

HOLYFIELD ADAPTS

I would like to make a suggestion for evaluating fighters that you sometimes forget: adaptability. Because a fighter fought a certain way for a certain fight, or even most of his fights, does not mean he is going to fight that way for his next fight. Heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield is a smart, dedicated fighter who will do whatever it takes to win a fight. That's why I pick him against anyone in the division.

Holyfield vs. George Foreman: Holyfield will run circles around him and punch from angles that George won't be able to counter against. Whenever Foreman uses his right, Holyfield will counter with combinations that will bring him close to Big George—too close for Foreman to answer with any power.

Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Based on Tyson's kayo of Alex Stewart, he is once again the master of ferocity and intimidation. Holyfield's strength of character will nullify the intimidation, and his jab will nullify the ferocity. Evander will smother Tyson on the inside with fast combinations and jab and counter on the outside.

Holyfield vs. Razor Ruddock: The key here would be mobility. Ruddock has better offensive skills than Foreman and Tyson, and Holyfield would have to bring his defensive skills to an all-time high level. Holyfield would get aggressive in the later rounds, after some of Ruddock's power has left him. On the inside, Holyfield would employ Ken Norton's criss-cross style of defense. Of the three bouts, this would be the most difficult for him to win.

JONATHAN LYNCH
Atlanta, GA

A CORRECTION

In a profile of WBA junior bantamweight champion Khaosai Galaxy in your March 1991 issue, Robert Cassidy wrote that "Galaxy and his twin brother Kaokor made history when they became the first brother combination to simultaneously hold world titles; Kaokor briefly held the WBA bantamweight title in 1989."

In 1983, the Curry brothers, Donald (welterweight) and Bruce (junior welterweight), became the first brothers to simultaneously hold world titles.

DAVID ACKERMAN
San Francisco, CA ■

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July 1965: Jose Torres, Puerto Rico's New Hero. Plus: Clay-Liston II prefight, Gene Tunney, Joey Giardello, Bonavena-Folley, George Chuvalo.

Aug. 1965: What Really Happened At Lewiston? Plus: Dick Tiger, Doc Kearns, Laguna-Ortiz, Patterson-Herring.

Sept. 1965: Walcott: Clay Could Beat Dempsey! Plus: Ali-Liston II backlash, Henry Hank, Willie Pep, Nino Benvenuti.

Oct. 1965: Will $$$ Still Lure Wilt? Plus: Jose Torres, Floyd Patterson, Joe Frazier, four ring hopefuls, Billy Conn, Liston-Clay, Flash Elorde.

Nov. 1965: Giardello Title Tenure Over? Plus: History of middleweights, heavyweight situation, Johnny Persol, Luis Rodriguez, Mathis & Frazier's pro debuts.

Dec. 1965: Experts Pick Clay vs. Patterson. Plus: Jose Torres, Sonny Liston, Joey Archer, Oscar Bonavena, Vicente Saldivar.

Jan. 1966: Explosion!!! Four Title Fights!!! Plus: Dick Tiger, Cassius Clay, Ernie Terrell, George Chuvalo.

April 1966: Who Has The Best Style To Beat Clay? Plus: Buster Mathis, Ernie Terrell, Marcel Cerdan, Dick Tiger, Rubin Carter, Carlos Ortiz.

May 1966: Who Will Tame Dick Tiger? Clay-Terrell preview, James Norris, Emile Griffith, Vicente Saldivar.

Aug. 1966: "I Will Retire Unbeaten!" Says Clay. Plus: Jose Torres, Randy Turpin, Karl Mildenberger, Clay-Cooper II, Emile Griffith, Harada-Jofre.

Sept. 1966: France Claims Its First Welter Title. Plus: Ernie Terrell, Nino Benvenuti, U.S. vs. Britain.

Oct. 1966: How Did Mildenberger Get There? Plus: Clay-London, Clay draft appeal, Sonny Liston, Louis-Schmeling I, Griffith-Archer, Joe Frazier.

Dec. 1966: Cassius Clay (painting by LeRoy Neiman). Plus: Frazier-Bonavena, Tony Zale, Primo Carnera, Clay-Terrell, Thompson-McClarnin, Floyd Patterson.

Jan. 1967: Is Time Running Out On Terrell? Plus: Torres-Tiger preview, long count mystery solved, Carlos Ortiz, Cassius Clay, Zora Folley, Johnny Persol.

March 1967: Why Isn't Clay Fighter Of The Year? Plus: Year-end issue, 2,500 fighters rated, Tiger-Torres, Clay-Terrell, Curtis Cokes.

April 1967: Death Stalks The Tiger. Plus: Cassius Clay, Emile Griffith, Mike Jacobs, Barney Ross, Joe Clark.

May 1967: Cassius Clay: "Louis Clobber Me? He Must Be Joking!" Plus: Frazier-Jones, Floyd Patterson, Carlos Ortiz, Frazier-Mathis preview, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1967: They're Talking Frazier Now!!! Plus: Ali-Folley, Joe Louis, Ismael Laguna, Clay-Ellis?, Joe Gans.

Aug. 1967: Karl Mildenberger: Germany's Second Schmeling? Plus: Nino Benvenuti, Foster-Cotton, Curtis Cokes, Tiger-Torres II, heavyweight analysis.

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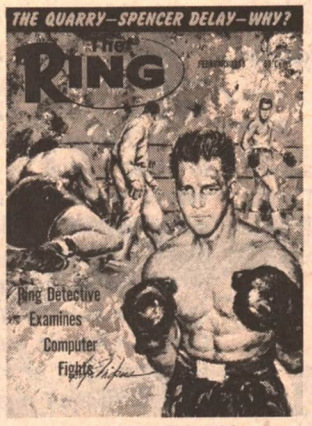
Nov. 1967: Can Thad Spencer Match Frazier's KO Punch? Plus: Buster Mathis, Jimmy Ellis, Sonny Liston, heavyweight elimination tourney, Carlos Ortiz.

Dec. 1967: Jack Dempsey Picks Next Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Griffith-Benvenuti II, Joe Frazier, Gans-McGovern controversy, Buster Mathis.

Jan. 1968: Corbett-Dempsey Computer Fight. Plus: Joe Frazier, Jerry Quarry, Jimmy Ellis, Thad Spencer, Vicente Saldivar retires.



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Feb. 1968: The Quarry-Spencer Delay—Why? Plus: Bob Foster, Buster Mathis, Rocky Marciano, Jimmy Ellis, Dick Tiger, all-time heavyweight tournament.

March 1968: Joe Frazier: Fighter Of The Year (96-Page Special). Plus: Year-end awards, Ali's legal problems, Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Rocky Marciano, James J. Jeffries, Jack Johnson.

April 1968: Spectre Of Clay Haunts Heavy Situation (painting by LeRoy Neiman) Plus: Transcript of Clay trial, Rocky Marciano, Ingemar Johansson, Bob Foster, Jerry Quarry.

May 1968: Quarry Revives White Hope Cry!!! Plus: Frazier-Mathis, Jimmy Ellis, Joe Frazier, Dick Tiger, Bob Foster, Nino Benvenuti.

June 1968: Boone Kirkman: Heavyweight Threat. Plus: Ken Buchanan, Sonny Liston, Ernie Terrell, southpaws, Nino Benvenuti & Frank Sinatra.

July 1968: Sonny Liston: Secret Story. Plus: Curtis Cokes, Sugar Ray Robinson, Joe Louis, Jose Torres, Henry Armstrong, Frazier-Ellis?, Bob Foster.

Aug. 1968: "Fight Or Jail": Crisis For Clay. Plus: Foster-Tiger, New Jersey fighters, Jose Torres, boxing commercials, Jimmy Ellis.

Sept. 1968: Foster: "I'm The Best Fighter In The World." Plus: Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Jack Dempsey, Manuel Ramos, Ortiz-Cruz, heavyweight enigmas.

Oct. 1968: Olympics Beckon To Seekers Of Heavyweight Riches. Plus: Joe Frazier, Sonny Liston, Joe Louis, middleweights, Buster Mathis.

Nov. 1968: Are Today's Fighters Overpaid? Plus: Joey Archer, Emile Griffith, Sugar Ray Robinson, Fritzie Zivic.

Dec. 1968: Is World Boxing Association Crumbling? Plus: Ellis-Patterson, George Chuvalo, Kid Gavilan, Bob Foster.

Jan. 1969: Jack Johnson, Faker Or Loser? Plus: Jess Willard, Jack Johnson, all-time middleweight tournament, George Foreman, Dick Tiger, Doyle Baird.

Feb. 1969: How Good Is Olympic Champ Foreman? Plus: Floyd Patterson, Emile Griffith, Freddie Little, George Chuvalo, Hall of Fame (Baer, O'Brien, Hyer), Lou Brouillard.

March 1969: Nino Benvenuti: Fighter Of The Year (96-Page Special). Plus: Year-end awards, greatest in each division, Jess Willard's death, Frazier-Bonavena, Liston-Lincoln.

April 1969: Controversy Rages: Ketchel Or Robinson? Plus: Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Bob Foster, computer fights, Buster Mathis.

May 1969: Frazier-Ellis—A Knockout For 1969! Plus: Mando Ramos, Bob Foster, cornermen, Marty Servo.

June 1969: Do Women Really Rule Boxing? Plus: Mando Ramos, trainers, Cassius Clay, Jerry Quarry, knockdown rule.

Oct. 1969: "How I'll Win" by Joe Frazier & Jimmy Ellis. Plus: What's next for Clay, Joe Bugner, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Mac Foster, Vicente Saldivar.

Nov. 1969: How Much Has Aging Liston Left? Plus: Ruben Olivares, Tommy Walsh, Battling Levinsky, referees.

Dec. 1969: Was Marciano Greatest Heavyweight? Plus: Mexican champs, Joe Louis, Jerry Quarry, Sonny Liston, Tom Bogs.

Jan. 1970: Why Is Clay Ballyhooing Frazier? Plus: Rocky Marciano, Jimmy Ellis, Napoles-Griffith.

Feb. 1970: Computer Controversy—Clay Or Marciano? Plus: Nino Benvenuti, Dick Tiger, Mike Quarry, Carlos Ortiz, Foreman-Davila, Johnny Griffin.

April 1970: 50 Greatest Ring Upsets! Plus: Boxing's Young Lions, the light heavyweight division, Joe Frazier, Jimmy Ellis, Muhammad Ali, Clay-Marciano.

June 1970: Stars Warn Frazier On His Future! Plus: Willie Pep, Bethea-Benvenuti, Ken Buchanan, Joe Frazier.

July 1970: Is Jose Urtain Boxing's New Superman? Plus: Foster-Frazier, Zale-Graziano wars, Luis Firpo.

When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

Nov. 1970: Is George Foreman For Real? Plus: Foreman-Chuvalo, British fighters, Randy Turpin, Tommy Farr.

Dec. 1970: Frazier's Title In Jeopardy? Plus: Patterson-Green, Bob Foster, Frazier-Foreman preview, Schmeling-Sharkey.

Jan. 1971: Jail Or Title For Cassius Clay? Plus: Castillo-Olivares, Buchanan-Laguna, Jose Napoles, Clay-Quarry, Clay vs. Frazier?

April 1971: Frazier-Clay In Three-Bout Series? Plus: Sonny Liston, Billy Backus, greatest fights ever, Mike Quarry.

July 1971: Is George Foreman Next Champ? Plus: Frazier-Clay, Olivares-Castillo, 105 rounds of mayhem, Nicolino Loche, Foster-Anderson.

Aug. 1971: Nino's Kayo—U.S. Judge Tells Ali! Plus: Wilt Chamberlain, Monzon-Benvenuti II, Adolph Pruitt, Napoles-Backus II, Denny McNamee.

Nov. 1971: Gene Tunney Finally Talks: On Clay, Frazier, Dempsey! Plus: Jose Napoles, Al Silvani, Clay-Frazier II?, Cus D'Amato, Marcano-Kobayashi, Ezzard Charles, Ruben Navarro.

Dec. 1971: Buchanan No. 1 In Fistic Cleverness? Plus: Monzon-Griffith I, Joe Bugner, Tommy Burns, Buchanan-Duran?, New York Boxing, Bodell-Bugner, "Halimi" Gutierrez.

April 1972: Is Frazier-Clay Rematch Off? Plus: Frazier-Daniels, Clay-Blin, Hall Of Fame (Graziano, Saddler, Berlenbach, Clark, Flowers), Armando Muniz, Pascual Perez, Griffith rates Monzon, fights that never came off, Tito Lectoure.

Dec. 1972: Muhammad Ali: "I Will Bring Peace To The World" Plus: Ali-Patterson, Ortiz-Buchanan, Foster-Finnegan, Armando Muniz, Joe Walcott, 1972 Olympics, Carmona-Ramos.

Jan. 1973: Big Heavyweight Shakeup! Plus: Lyle-Mathis, Bugner-Blin, Griffith-DeNucci, WBA, Jack Sharkey, the man who stopped Ali, Bennie Briscoe, Ray Lampkin, Kid Chocolate, Ernie Terrell, Walter Seeley, Chacon-Reyes.

Feb. 1973: Is Heavyweight Ron Lyle For Real? Plus: Ali-Foster, Duran-DeJesus I, Monzon-Briscoe II, Danny Lopez, Antonio Cervantes, Frazier-Foreman preview.

April 1973: Is Champ Foreman For Real? Plus: Foreman-Frazier I, Rudiger Schmidke, Hall Of Fame (Rosenbloom, Zivic, Jack, Papke, LaBarba), Sugar Ray Seales, Rodolfo Gonzalez.

May 1973: Special Heavyweight Issue! Plus: George Foreman, Muhammad Ali, upsets, Foreman-Frazier feedback, Jerry Quarry, DeJesus-Lampkin.

June 1973: World Heavyweight Championship: Foreman-Quarry! Plus: Ali-Norton I, Louis-Conn, Carlos Monzon, Shibata-Villaflor, Napoles-Lopez, Harry Warren, Filipino Nabalatan, Garden nostalgia, Gonzalez-Navarro.

Aug. 1973: Joe Frazier: "I Will Beat Foreman Or Quit!" Plus: Ruben Olivares, Bobby Chacon, Carol Polis, Monzon-Griffith II, Vito Antuofermo, Herrera-Martinez, Lopez-Ordunez.

Oct. 1973: The Private Life Of George Foreman Plus: Carlos Monzon, WBA/WBC, Frazier-Bugner, George Foreman, DeJesus-Lampkin II.

NOVEMBER 1973

Nov. 1973: World Title Fight Barrage! Plus: Foreman-Roman, Foster-Fourie, Joe Bugner, Gentleman Jim Corbett, Harry Greb, Anaya-Pinder, Henry Nissen, Muniz-Lopez.

Dec. 1973: Is Ali Ready For Foreman? Plus: Napoles-Gray, Monzon-Bouttier, Yancey Durham's death, Paddy Ryan, Ali-Norton II, the heavyweight picture, Cervantes-Giminez, Conteh-Rondon.

Dec. 1974: Inside Story From Zaire! Plus: Foreman-Ali postponement, Bob Foster's retirement, Teofilo Stevenson, Chacon-Marcano, Roberto Duran, Jimmy Wilde & Barney Ross.

April 1975: Chuck Wepner Story: A Tale Out Of Fiction. Plus: Joe Louis, Redd Foxx, Hall of Fame (Curtis, Fullmer, Tiger, Klaus, Chaney), Alexis Arguello, Marvin Hagler, Chacon-Lopez, Ali-Foreman II?, Miguel Canto.

Sept.-Oct. 1975: Is Ali Punch Fact Or Fiction? Plus: Don King, Ali-Bugner II, Monzon-Licata, Duran-Peterson, Olivares-Chacon, Galindez-Ahumada, Monroe-Hart, Ezzard Charles dies.

Aug. 1976: First American To Hold Word Title In Each Division. Plus: John L. Sullivan, Ali-Dunn, DeJesus-Suzuki, Zarate-Martinez, Foster's comeback, Duran-Mamby, Lopez-Gomez.

Sept. 1976: Ali-Norton: Special Heavyweight Issue! Plus: Vonzell Johnson, Palomino-Stracey, Galindez-Kates, Foreman-Frazier II, Arguello-Torres, Oscar Bonavena's death.

June 1977: What Now, George Foreman? Plus: Marvis Frazier, Carlos Palomino, Harold Weston, Antuofermo-Hart, Lyle-Bugner, Gazo-Castellini, Conteh-Hutchins, the comeback of George Chuvalo, Jimmy Young, Hagler-Monroe.

Sept. 1977: Norton-Young: Winner To Fight Ali! Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael and Leon Spinks, John Tate, Palomino-Green, Galindez-Kates II, Wilfredo Gomez, Irish-American fighters.

Nov. 1977: Monzon Retires Plus: Undefeated middleweights, middleweight analysis, Bennie Briscoe, Roberto Duran, Cuevas-Gray, Alexis Arguello, Wilfred Benitez, Monzon-Valdes II.

Feb. 1978: Exclusive Coverage: Norton vs. Young. Plus: Galindez-Gregory, Saensak Muangsurin, Leon Spinks, Matt Franklin, Valdes-Briscoe, heavyweight comebacks, Jerry Quarry, Ray Leonard, Carlos Zarate

July 1979: Foreman Exclusive: Preach Or Punch? Plus: Mike Weaver, Jack Sharkey, Galindez-Rossman II, Franklin-Johnson II, Jorge Lujan, Watt-Pitalua, Chacon-Limon II, Conteh-Burnett, Leonard-Viruet, federal commission?

Aug. 1979: Fights You Want To See! Plus: Leonard-Geraldo, Hearns-Weston, Ron Lyle, James Scott, Jeff Chandler, Davey Moore, Scandinavian fighters, big-fight previews.

Sept. 1979: Is Holmes Ali's Successor? Plus: Holmes-Weaver, Duran-Palomino, Lopez-Ayala, Coetzee-Spinks, Pintor-Zarate, Tate-Knoetze, Kim-Guisseppi, Lopez-Ayala, Gomez-Hernandez, German greats, Rocky II.

Nov. 1979: Leonard: Sweet Enough To Be Called "Sugar Ray"? Plus: Wilfred Benitez, Willie Pep, 10 worst heavyweights, Monzon comback?, Cuevas-Shields, Leonard-Ranzany, Muhammad-Conteh, Hilmer Kenty.

Dec. 1979: What's Next For Larry Holmes? Plus: Holmes-Shavers II, Pipino Cuevas, Thomas Hearns, Arum & King, Leonard-Price, Gomez-Mendoza.

☐ Oct/61	☐ Feb/65	☐ Dec/66	☐ Apr/68	☐ Jun/69	☐ Aug/71	☐ Dec/74
☐ Jul/62	☐ Apr/65	☐ Jan/67	☐ May/68	☐ Oct/69	☐ Nov/71	☐ Apr/75
☐ Sep/62	☐ Jul/65	☐ Mar/67	☐ Jun/68	☐ Nov/69	☐ Dec/71	☐ Sep-Oct/75
☐ Apr/63	☐ Aug/65	☐ Apr/67	☐ Jul/68	☐ Dec/69	☐ Apr/72	☐ Aug/76
☐ May/63	☐ Sep/65	☐ May/67	☐ Aug/68	☐ Jan/70	☐ Dec/72	☐ Sep/76
☐ Jul/63	☐ Oct/65	☐ Jun/67	☐ Sep/68	☐ Feb/70	☐ Jan/73	☐ Jun/77
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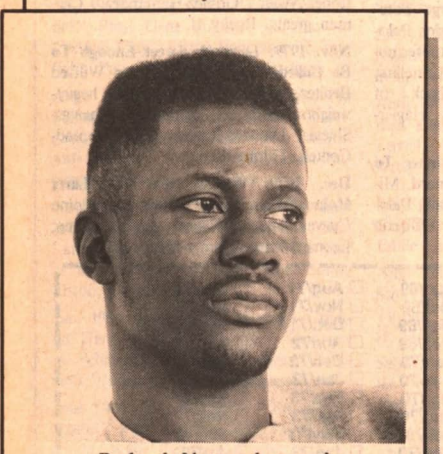
ROUND ONE

AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE: It's been seven months since Mark Breland lost the WBA welterweight title via kayo to Aaron Davis, and there's still some doubt as to whether he'll fight again.

"After the Davis fight," said Joey Fariello, Breland's trainer, "both Shelly [Finkel, Breland's manager] and I recommended that he get out. Mark said he would like to continue."

"I never retired," Breland, 27, said. "The papers retired me. No one else runs my life. I always wanted to pursue acting after boxing, and I'll do it when I'm ready."



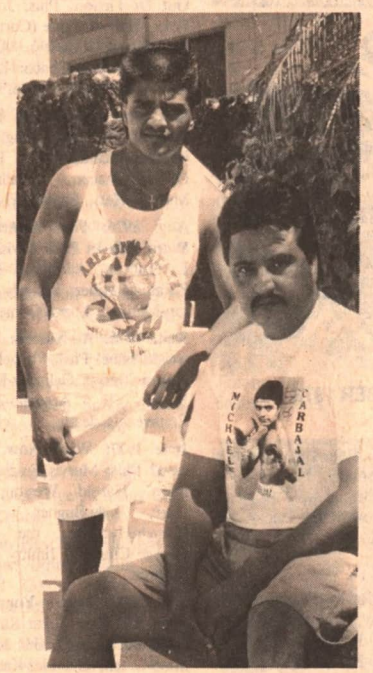
Breland: Not ready to retire

Breland was scheduled to fight in Albany in February, but the fight was postponed when Breland was reported to have twisted an ankle. Fariello, however, acknowledged there was more to the story.

"It was a combination of [the ankle injury] and not looking good," he said. "He wasn't mentally prepared. He didn't look good at all. His sparring was off—he wasn't right. He looked like the fighter who was in with Aaron Davis."

Breland remains in training. Should he return, he will fight as a junior middleweight.

—Arlene Schulman



Michael and Danny Carbajal

SHOOTING FOR THE CHAMP: Michael Carbajal will gladly exchange punches with the world's top 108-pounders, but trading shots in the neighborhood is something else.

On January 11, and again three days later, the IBF junior flyweight champion was startled by gunshots fired at the windows of his home on Ninth Street in Phoenix. Carbajal lives with his mother, brother Angel, and two-year-old nephew. There were no injuries.

"They caught the guys a few days later," said Danny Carbajal, the champion's brother and trainer, who lives on the same block. "They were three teenagers in a gang that lives in the projects. They were just trying to get their names in the paper or something."

The Carbajals did not know the teenagers.

"We had support coming from all over," Danny Carbajal continued. "Even from different neighborhoods outside of Phoenix. They were pretty upset about it. We even got calls from parents of the kids that did it. They were worried that we were going to retaliate. I told them that wouldn't happen. That's not what we're about."

—Gary Horowitz

HOPE AND INNOCENCE: After an 18-month legal battle that cost him more than £20,000 (about $10,000) in lawyers' fees, former WBC super welterweight champion Maurice Hope was found innocent of charges that he smoked cannabis and assaulted the two British police officers who arrested him in October 1988. Hope, who was knighted in 1984 for services to boxing, was awarded £50,000 by a British court for his wrongful arrest.

"I want to donate the money to charity to help fight injustice for all people," Hope told *The Voice,* a British publication. "If I hadn't been able to pay out for good barristers and been in a position to defend my good character, I'm sure I would have been convicted.

"The money's not my prime concern. I just feel happy that I've been proven innocent. I don't feel bitter toward the police, just saddened that they can do this."

Hope now lives in Antigua, where he works as a trainer and vice president of the island's amateur boxing federation.

—Ed Maloney

THAT'S THE TICKET: Fewer than 7,000 fans paid their way into Madison Square Garden for the Terry Norris-Sugar Ray Leonard fight, and choice seats were available on fight night. But at least one fan didn't take any chances. According to Nassau County (New York) police, one month before the fight, a robber ordered two $350 seats at the Video Connection in

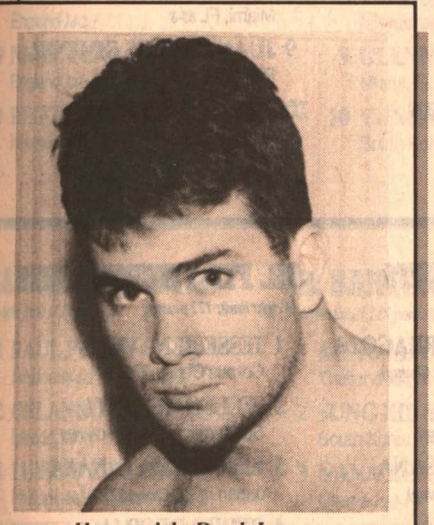
Rockville Centre, threatened a ticket clerk by reaching into his pocket for what he said was a gun, and then fled without paying.

HEAVYWEIGHT BLITZ: With all due *dis*respect to Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Mark Gastineau, and Tony Mandarich, a real fighter may have finally emerged from the line of scrimmage. Former Ohio State linebacker Derek Isaman is campaigning as a heavyweight and sports a 4-0 record with four knockouts.

"Most people don't understand he was a fighter before he was a football player," said Isaman's trainer, Joey Fariello.

Isaman compiled an amateur record of 95-15. At age 16, he lost a decision to Mike Tyson in the Junior Olympics. In 1988, he won the National Golden Gloves title, beating Tommy Morrison along the way. Later that year, he competed in the Olympic Trials, losing in the 201-pound semifinals.

After that loss, Isaman returned to Ohio State for his senior year. He led the defense in tackles and earned team MVP honors, but admits he lacked the tools to play pro football. "They're so damn big and fast," he said.



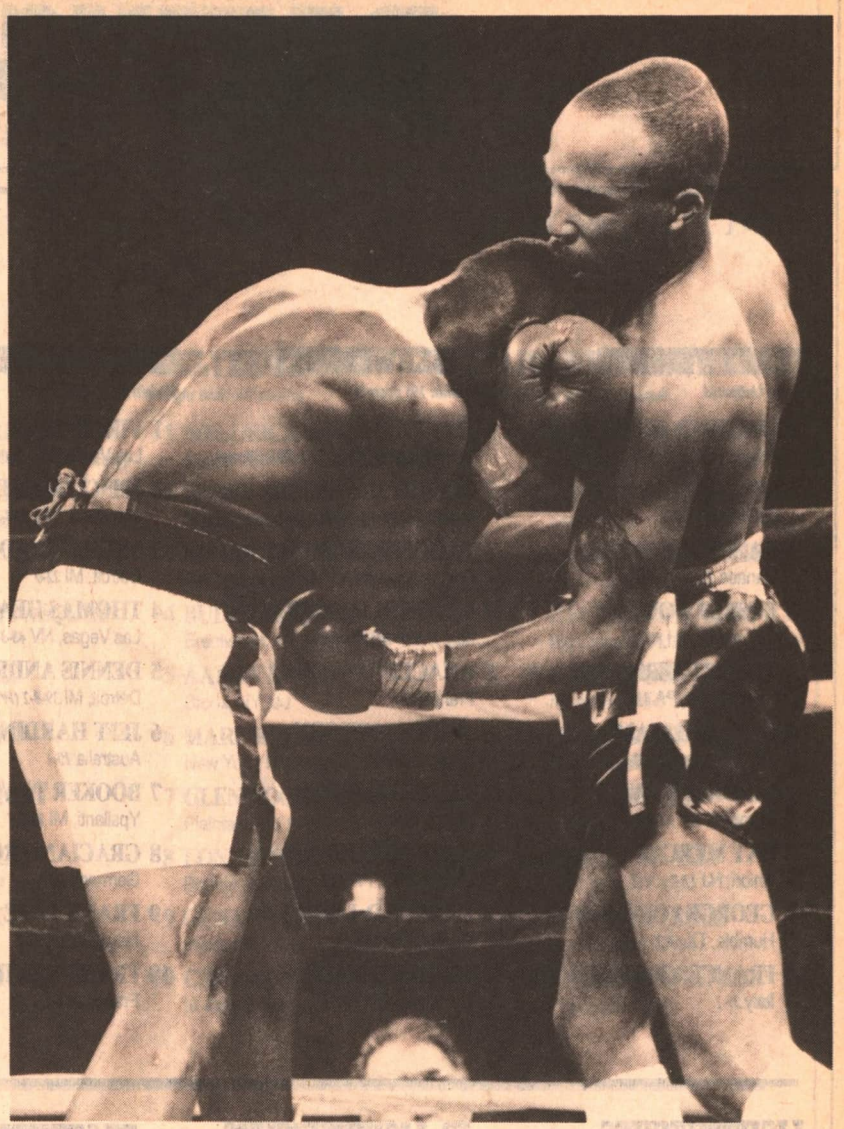
Heavyweight Derek Isaman

Does he have the tools to make it in boxing? Fariello seems to think so.

"He has a tremendous jab, and he's a good bodypuncher," the trainer said. "I can honestly say that in the gym, I can put him in with anybody in the world for three rounds and he'll hold his own."

When asked if the violence of the gridiron helped prepare him for the violence of the ring, Isaman said, "I really don't think so. In football, you have 10 guys to help you out. In boxing, it's just you."

—Robert Cassidy



Waiting for a title try, Buddy McGirt pounds Joe Alexander

OUTSIDE THE ROPES: Former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes has settled a four-year lawsuit with the widow of former *New York Post* sportswriter Dick Young. Holmes and Josephine Young agreed to a settlement after five hours of talks mediated by U.S. Magistrate Robert Johnston. Young filed suit after he was ejected from an April 1986 public training session prior to Holmes' title fight with Michal Spinks. Terms were not disclosed. Young died in August 1987 . . . *The National* reported that former middleweight champion Iran Barkley may be leaving manager John Reetz for Don King . . . Ken Sanders is back as the manager of Evander Holyfield, and he is not pleased with Holyfield's three-fight deal with promoter Dan Duva. "We don't need a promoter like an up-and-coming fighter does," Sanders told *The National*. "When you're heavyweight champion, things change." The power struggle has apparently just begun . . . No surprise: Canada's Shawn O'Sullivan is returning to the ring. His trainer will be Kevin Rooney . . . Manager Al Certo has threatened that he may yank top-rated welterweight Buddy McGirt from the Madison Square Garden stable. Certo doesn't want to wait any longer for a title shot . . . Thomas Hearns, who visited Saudi Arabia as part of a USO tour, donated $50,000 to the USO world headquarters. ■

THE RING RATINGS

Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA *25-0 (World Champ)*

2 **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY *39-1*

3 **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
Canada *25-1-1*

4 **BUSTER DOUGLAS**
Columbus, OH *30-5-1*

5 **TIM WITHERSPOON**
Philadelphia, PA *33-3*

6 **CARL WILLIAMS**
White Plains, NY *23-3*

7 **RIDDICK BOWE**
Brooklyn, NY *21-0*

8 **RAY MERCER**
Union, NJ *17-0*

9 **GEORGE FOREMAN**
Humble, TX *69-2*

10 **FRANCESCO DAMIANI**
Italy *27-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

4 **MASSIMILIANO DURAN**
Italy *18-0 (WBC Champ)*

5 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *28-2*

6 **JOHNNY NELSON**
England *20-5-1*

7 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *11-1*

8 **NATE MILLER**
Philadelphia, PA *18-2*

9 **CARLOS DeLEON**
Puerto Rico *42-6-1*

10 **RICHARD MASON**
Cincinnati, OH *17-2-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **VIRGIL HILL**
Las Vegas, NV *30-0 (WBA Champ)*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *30-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **MICHAEL MOORER**
Detroit, MI *22-0*

4 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Las Vegas, NV *48-3-1*

5 **DENNIS ANDRIES**
Detroit, MI *39-8-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *19-1*

7 **BOOKER T. WORD**
Ypsilanti, MI *18-1-1*

8 **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
Germany *30-0*

9 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *28-2*

10 **FRANK WINTERSTEIN**
France *50-1-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *28-0 (WBA Champ)*

2 **LINDELL HOLMES**
Detroit, MI *43-5-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **TONY BYRD**
Los Angeles, CA *18-1-1*

4 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *16-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

5 **VICTOR CORDOVA**
Panama *13-2*

6 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *27-4-1*

7 **JOHN JARVIS**
Richmond, VA *22-2*

8 **ROBERTO DURAN**
Miami, FL *85-8*

9 **JUAN CARLOS GIMENEZ**
Paraguay *34-4-3*

10 **DARIO MATTEONI**
Argentina *25-2-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *24-1 (World Champ)*

2 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *26-0*

3 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *28-17-3*

4 **JUAN NAZARIO**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

5 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *30-0*

6 **ANTHONY JONES**
Detroit, MI *28-2-1*

7 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *27-3-1*

8 **PEDRO SANCHEZ**
New York, NY *19-0-1*

9 **DARRYL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *33-3*

10 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *21-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *32-2 (WBC Champ)*

2 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *36-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **BRIAN MITCHELL**
South Africa *42-1-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *25-0*

5 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

6 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *23-0*

7 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *22-0*

8 **BERNARD TAYLOR**
Knoxville, TN *41-2-2*

9 **JERRY NGOBENI**
South Africa *18-1*

10 **FRANKIE MITCHELL**
Philadelphia, PA *25-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 **ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA**
Venezuela *30-1-4 (WBA Champ)*

2 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *36-3-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 **MARCOS VILLASANA**
Mexico *51-7-2 (WBC Champ)*

4 **LOUIE ESPINOZA**
Phoenix, AZ *40-4-2*

5 **TROY DORSEY**
Dallas, TX *12-3-4*

6 **MAURIZIO STECCA**
Italy *41-1*

7 **RICARDO CEPEDA**
Bronx, NY *21-0-1*

8 **ELOY ROJAS**
Venezuela *20-0*

9 **RAFAEL ZUNIGA**
Colombia *24-0-2*

10 **TOM JOHNSON**
Detroit, MI *22-1-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 **JESSE BENAVIDES**
Corpus Christi, TX *33-1*

2 **WELCOME NCITA**
South Africa *27-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **KIYOSHI HATANAKA**
Japan *(WBC Champ) 22-1-1*

4 **PEDRO DECIMA**
Argentina *26-3*

5 **LUIS MENDOZA**
Colombia *30-2-2 (WBA Champ)*

6 **PAUL BANKE**
Quail Valley, CA *19-5*

7 **JESUS SALUD**
San Diego, CA *35-4*

8 **TRACY PATTERSON**
New Paltz, NY *40-2*

9 **JEMAL HINTON**
District Heights, MD *15-0*

10 **YONG HOON LEE**
South Korea *17-0*

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

- In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.
- Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.
- These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

For Period Ended February 20, 1991

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Los Angeles, CA *36-0 (IBF Champ)*

2 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Virgin Islands *40-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **SUMBU KALAMBAY**
Italy *50-4-1*

4 **MIKE McCALLUM**
Brooklyn, NY *39-1 (WBA Champ)*

5 **STEVE COLLINS**
Brockton, MA *18-1*

6 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *25-0*

7 **JAMES TONEY**
Ann Arbor, MI *24-0-1*

8 **MICHAEL WATSON**
England *24-2-1*

9 **NIGEL BENN**
England *27-2*

10 **REGGIE JOHNSON**
Houston, TX *28-1-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 **TERRY NORRIS**
Mission Valley, CA *27-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
Italy *50-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
Tucson, AZ *22-0*

4 **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
Argentina *26-0*

5 **GILBERT DELE**
France *26-0-1*

6 **JORGE CASTRO**
Argentina *53-2-2*

7 **CARLOS ELLIOTT**
Japan *26-2*

8 **TYRONE TRICE**
Milwaukee, WI *37-3*

9 **GLENN WOLFE**
Miami, FL *27-1-1*

10 **YUNG KIL CHUNG**
South Korea *30-6-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *26-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *33-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *32-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Brentwood, NY *51-2-1*

5 **AARON DAVIS**
Bronx, NY *32-1*

6 **MARK BRELAND**
New York, NY *27-2-1*

7 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfeild, NJ *33-1*

8 **LONNIE SMITH**
Denver, CO *28-2-1*

9 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *36-2-2*

10 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *22-0*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *73-0 (WBC & IBF Champ)*

2 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *28-1-1(WBA Champ)*

3 **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
Las Vegas, NV *39-6*

4 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *38-0*

5 **JUAN COGGI**
Argentina *47-2-2*

6 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Essex County, NJ *20-0*

7 **PAT BARRETT**
England *29-1-1*

8 **TERRENCE ALLI**
New York, NY *45-7-2*

9 **JOHN DUPLESSIS**
New Orleans, LA *34-1*

10 **ANGEL HERNANDEZ**
Puerto Rico *35-0-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **RAUL PEREZ**
Mexico *48-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *27-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
Philippines *25-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 **PEPILLO VALDEZ**
Mexico *37-3-1*

5 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *33-2-1*

6 **JAVIER LEON**
Mexico *34-2-2*

7 **GERARDO MARTINEZ**
San Jose, CA *24-1*

8 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *27-3*

9 **BILLY HARDY**
England *24-5-1*

10 **CHANG KYUN OH**
South Korea *28-4-4*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **KHAOSAI GALAXY**
Thailand *46-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *13-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **NANA KONADU**
Ghana *19-1-1*

4 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *17-0 (IBF Champ)*

5 **KID AKEEM**
Las Vegas, NV *22-0*

6 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *19-2*

7 **JOHNNY TAPIA**
Albuquerque, NM *21-0-1*

8 **THALERNSAK SITHBAOBEY**
Thailand *32-2*

9 **DAVID GRIMAN**
Venezuela *10-0*

10 **REY PACIONES**
Philippines *29-2-3*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **SOT CHITALADA**
Thailand *23-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *16-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **LEOPARD TAMAKUMA**
Japan *27-4-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **JUNG KOO CHANG**
South Korea *38-3*

5 **YUL WOO LEE**
South Korea *19-3*

6 **JESUS ROJAS**
Venezuela *20-2-2*

7 **RICHARD CLARKE**
Jamaica *23-3*

8 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *25-6-1*

9 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *22-0*

10 **JONATHAN PENALOSA**
Philippines *11-0*

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2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Lightweight

3 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Middleweight

4 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Welterweight

5 **ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA**
Featherweight

6 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

7 **MIKE TYSON**
Heavyweight

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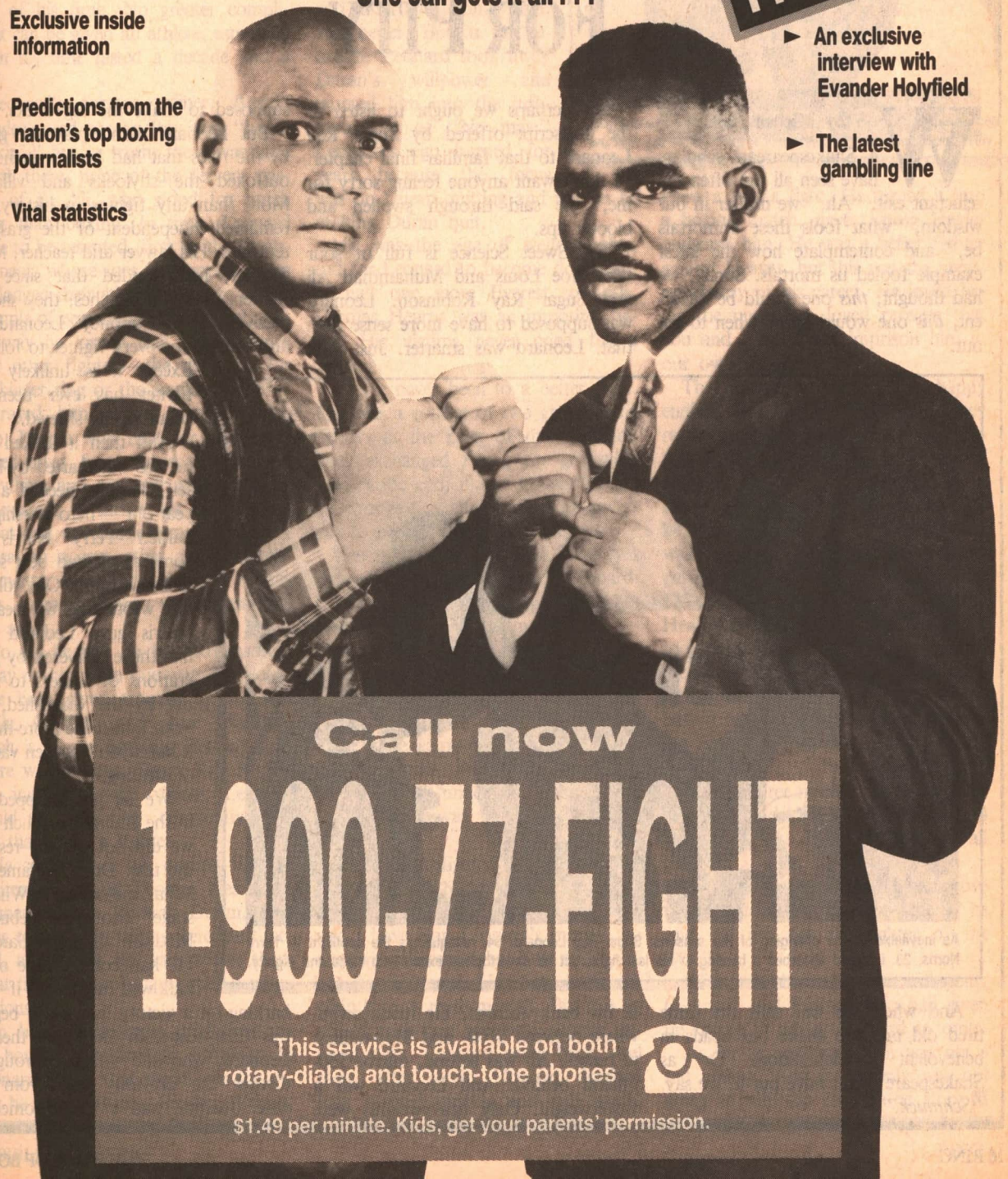

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KATZ SCAN

NO NEED FOR PITY

By Michael Katz

We Shakespearean scholars have seen all too often the reluctant exit. "Ah," we mutter in our wisdom, "what fools these immortals be," and contemplate how the latest example fooled us mortals. Surely, we had thought, *this* one would be different, *this* one would know when to get out.

But perhaps we ought to listen to the postscript offered by Sugar Ray Leonard to that familiar final chapter. "I don't want anyone feeling sorry for me," he said through swollen and bloody lips.

The Sweet Science is full of sour tales. Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Robinson. Leonard was supposed to have more sense than that. Leonard was smarter. Just look supposed to make the big bucks.

But Leonard didn't play the game by the rules that had been written. He outfoxed the shylocks and villains. More than any fighter in history, he remained independent of the grasping tentacles. His lawyer and teacher, Mike Trainer, had decided that since the fighters took the punches, they should receive the most money. Leonard set an example for every fighter to follow. Except it is unlikely any fighter has ever been as smart or as shrewd.

As inevitable as the changing of the seasons: Sugar Ray Leonard, 34, relinquishes the spotlight to Terry Norris, 23. Leonard absorbed a beating in his last fight, but he nevertheless exited with class and dignity.

And then it looked like he was outsmarted by himself, that he needed a 23-year-old hero-worshipper named Terry Norris to come along and beat some sense into him. One columnist wrote that the beating Norris gave Leonard was like those delivered by generations of fathers to sons out by the woodshed, the "this'll-hurt-me-more-than-it-hurts-you" garden variety of beating.

We all got wrapped up in the ending, so much that we did not see the rest of the tale. Do not blame us. What melodrama! What a stage! Leonard's debut at Madison Square Garden! He had come to the once-hallowed arena as if embarking on a victory lap. But it began, this final scene, in an empty theater. Leonard, who had suffered through a divorce the previous year from his wife, Juanita, had in truth somehow

And when *this* one tells the same tired old tale, we shake our heads in benevolent condemnation. Or as Shakespeare might have put it, we say, *"Schmuck."*

at his bank account. He made somewhere between $100- and $110-million in purses. Ali was second, maybe $50-million behind. And Leonard was a welterweight. Only heavyweights were

become divorced from his public. Fewer than 7,000 paid their way into the Garden, though Norris was a very live underdog. (Still, most of the so-called experts, this one included, figured Leonard knew what he was doing—he had hand-picked the opponent and knew more than we did.) But the young man, booed upon his entrance, won over the audience as he coolly sculpted lumps upon his idol's face. By the 12th and final round, when all Leonard's corner could do was pray that he exit on his feet, the crowd was chanting, "Ter-ry, Ter-ry."

But there was no need to feel sorry for Sugar Ray Leonard. He was the best of his time. No greater compliment can be given an athlete, especially when his time lasted a decade and a half.

Leonard's former trainer, Angelo Dundee, used to say Ray was "home cookin'," but in truth, there was little hearth there, none of the fervent passion of an Ali, who stood for much more than boxing. In time, Leonard came to be resented, first by the Establishment, whose toes he stepped on as he dodged their sticky fingers to set an example of remaining independent. But the way he lorded that independence over other fighters—the demands for the bigger ring or the smaller weight—portrayed him as an arrogant antihero. People who root for underdogs turned away from the man who had everything and was still willing to risk his eyesight to satisfy his ego.

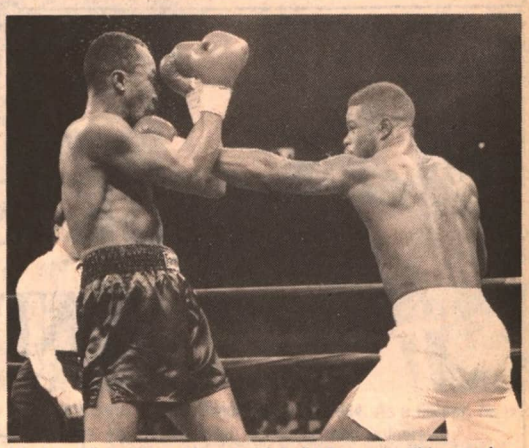
But that ego made him special, that refusal to accept other people's confinements. We all don't climb mountains. Leonard dashed up Everest time and again.

To say he was no Ray Robinson is to say nothing. No one was. He would have been given trouble by such as Emile Griffith and Jose Napoles, which is to say nothing. But say this: There was no one, Sugar Ray Robinson included, with whom Leonard would not have been competitive. He was that great a fighter.

He could do it all, outbox Wilfred Benitez or outslug Thomas Hearns or be meaner than Roberto Duran, anything to win. His talents were multifaceted, and it was not easy to see them all at first, almost because they were so obvious.

In boxing, greatness is defined by the boundaries closest to a fighter. In Leonard's case, that meant—in the order he faced them—Benitez, Duran, Hearns, and Marvelous Marvin Hagler. He was the fighter of the '80s, and his fights were the best of the '80s.

He was still a baby, 23 (Norris' age), when he beat Benitez. Emanuel Steward, who worked the opposite corner but was nonetheless a longtime admirer, says, "No one has ever had more stamina than Ray Leonard." Even in his loss to Duran in Montreal, it was Leonard who finished strongest. That was one of the great fights in history—Duran's willpower conquering a man who was younger and faster and stronger and, yes, better. But in the rematch, Leonard took away Duran's willpower and taunted him into the infamous cry of "No mas." Leonard's ego burned for years because the focus was on Duran quitting and not on his making Duran quit.



Norris easily outboxed Leonard for all 12 rounds. "I knew when we first got in the ring, it just wasn't there," said Sugar Ray.

His was the age of welterweights, and for Leonard to become dominant, he had one more Everest to scale. Thomas Hearns was an imposing figure. His victims never cried for a rematch.

I have never been to a better fight. This was a contest of two great young fighters at the peak of their abilities. They exchanged *feints,* for goshsake. And at the end, it was Leonard again the strongest, coming back from adversity to crown himself for the ages.

The eyes failed him then. The eyes were always a special part of Leonard. No one had a better view of punches coming at him. He seemed to see everything before it happened.

By then, he had already earned enough money to live luxuriously on the interest for the rest of his life. He retired, the same as he had after the 1976 Olympics. But boxing kept calling. He didn't understand it himself at first, but he was a fighter. Fighters fight.

He was castigated for wanting to fight again with repaired retinas. The man was a fool, said the people. You and I have Ray Leonard's money, no way we risk our sight. You and I are not Ray Leonard. He could never explain it to us mere mortals. But it is an act of faith that greatness accepts unusual risks. Leonard came back, and then, after Kevin Howard dumped him, reacted quickly and quit again. He spoke too soon. It was still gnawing at him when he decided to come back and do the impossible—move up in weight and fight the great Hagler.

But Leonard, from his ringside seat for HBO, had seen Hagler age. He knew it was a fight. He turned it into a boxing match, never letting Hagler outbrawl him. He was a better fighter against Hearns, but this was the greatest victory of his career. He loved being the underdog, loved proving that you and I could not imprison him in our own standards.

The romantics wanted the happy ending. But fighters fight until they reach their own ending. It never is happy, but do not feel sorry for Leonard. He kept going, first setting up a straw soldier in Donny Lalonde, then knocking out the bigger man. Lalonde was an unskilled clubfighter by comparison, but he was a champion of the 175-pound division. Then came the Hearns rematch—maybe he was lucky to get a draw—and a meaningless third meeting with Duran. Leonard was tarnishing his image. Besides, he had to have a real challenge. He had to see if the fighter of the '80s could compete in the '90s.

He was three months shy of his 35th birthday and hadn't fought in 14 months. Not so surprisingly, it was all gone.

"It took this kind of fight to prove to me that it is no longer my time," he said. "I am not the fighter of the '90s."

"This was the only way it was going to stop," said Trainer, who had given up trying to advise Leonard to quit.

As far as boxing goes, it was not a sad ending. And it certainly was not going to ruin the rest of the story. ■

RYAN

OUT LOUD

IMAGE IS EVERYTHING... AND NOTHING

By Jeff Ryan

That great fluorescent philosopher, Andre Agassi, likes to tell us that "image is everything." And it's hard to argue when you think of Steve Garvey, ideal role model on the baseball field, slipping out of his uniform and into a paternity suit. Or watch a Jorge Paez parlay his barber's warped sense of humor and his own fancy for punching in sequins—rather than sequence—into an NBC contract. Or, especially, if you marvel at what Agassi's image as a renegade racketeer has done—namely land him on Madison Avenue while better players begging for endorsements are left to toil futilely in his five o'clock shadow.

Image was once everything for Ras-I (Livingstone) Bramble, too. Oh, sure, he could fight, but that was only a part (and maybe not even an important part) of what he had going for him. Donald Curry and Mike McCallum could also fight, but when they'd get introduced as celebs in attendance at a big card in Las Vegas, the crowd was so quiet you could hear the tumbleweed rolling around in the desert.

No, textbook counterpunching and two thrashings of Ray Mancini alone didn't make Bramble a household name. What did were the dreadlocks, the pet boa constrictors, the pit bulls, and a personal witch doctor named Dr. Doo. All that and an eerie unpredictability, one that was never more apparent than when he dedicated his 1986 bout with Tyrone Crawley to MOVE, a radical organization that had staged a vicious battle with Philadelphia police the year before. The reason for the dedication? Bramble learned that Crawley's relatives were Philly cops.

As a world lightweight champion, Livingstone Bramble helped create an image of eccentricity and unpredictability. Was that the real Bramble? Six years later, that remains a difficult question to answer.

When this far-out Rastafarian was announced at a fight, everyone booed, jeered, and extended a downturned thumb. But nobody ever asked, "Who's that?" Never.

By 1989, though, Bramble's image was undergoing a makeover. After going 2-2-1 in his previous five fights, he was on the comeback trail. It had been three years since he'd left his manager and straight man, Lou Duva, and lost the lightweight title to Edwin Rosario. Even the boas were gone, the victims of an accident in which Bramble's sister gave "The Greenhouse Effect" new meaning. She had closed the door of the room they were in at the same time that the sun was blazing through the

window. When Bramble walked in and found his pets, they were cooked.

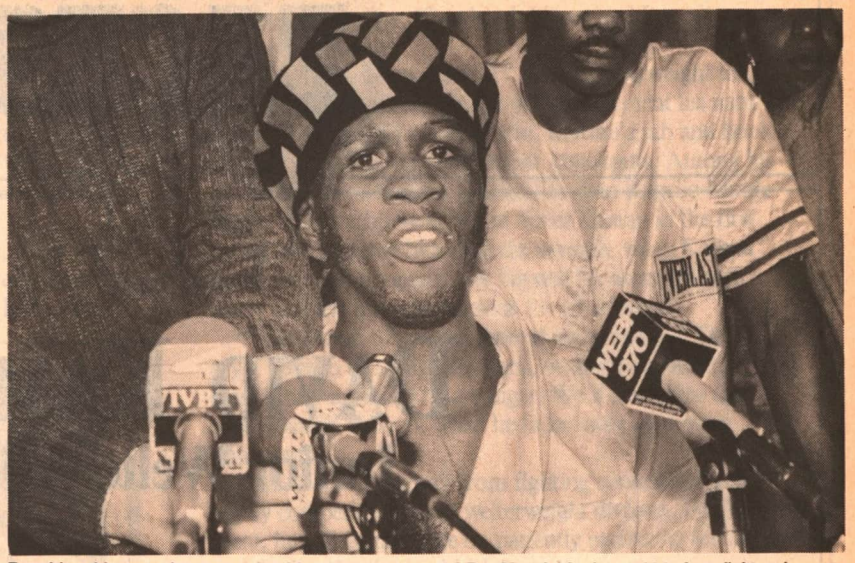
Bramble's image as boxing's bad boy was being cooked, as well. We started hearing stories from people in the business that the real Bramble didn't match that old image at all. Dr. Doo, it turns out, was his former basketball coach. Dedicating the fight to MOVE was just a way to grab headlines. The new Bramble was supposed to be a personable fellow, a homebody, just another working stiff looking forward to punching out (in this case, a junior welterweight) and returning home to the wife and kids.

On a Saturday afternoon two years ago, I visited his home in Hampton Township, New Jersey, to try to discover how the man fit the images, and learn which Bramble was the real one. What I discovered was not the hard-edged character who'd been lightweight king, nor the tough guy who once chewed me out because I'd referred to his previous dwelling as "a zoo." I instead found a tender man who doted on his beautiful wife, Kristin, clowned with his two sons, and had opened his home to a troubled local teen who had been thrown out of his house by his father.

Bramble revealed a side the public never saw. He told me of how he met Kristin when he was training for the Mancini rematch and happened to walk into the eyewear shop she worked at in the MGM Hotel in Reno. He invited her to the fight, but at ringside she began experiencing difficulty seeing. Within days, a cornea infection had rendered her legally blind. Bramble brought her to New Jersey, took her to several eye specialists, and several months later, her eyesight was restored. For Kristin, it was love at second sight.

After we spoke for a while, we went outside, where Bramble talked me into petting his pit bull's snout, and stood laughing in the chicken coop while a rooster and a hen did the big nasty at his feet. Bramble said he was at peace. He stood in front of his house, surveyed his six acres of property in the most vernal surroundings, and voiced only one tiny complaint about this area he now called home. The problem, he said, was the police. It seemed that the sight of a black man in dreadlocks driving a Saab 900 Turbo in *that* part of Jersey could make a cop very suspicious.

"They always stop me because they think I'm a drug dealer," he said, clearly annoyed. "After they find out who I am, they apologize. I've been nice about it, but I'm geting really tired of it."



Bramble addresses the press after his upset stoppage of Ray Mancini in June 1984. As a fighter, he was perceived as vicious. Outside the ring, however, he can be kind, sensitive, and vulnerable.

That vision of Bramble voicing his dissatisfaction came to mind again in January, when it was reported that he and a Newark man, William J. Braxton, were arrested on drug charges. According to published reports, police found eight plastic bags of marijuana and 25 packets of cocaine in Braxton's apartment. If convicted of all the charges, Bramble faces 22 years in prison and a $300,000 fine.

While it remains to be seen if Bramble will be found guilty, his arrest is nonetheless a reminder of how superficial an image can be. In its own way, that image of the family man is now unraveling publicly, just as that image of the crazed ring assassin once did.

Of course, the family image had shown signs of being a mirage long ago, it's just that few knew it. Shortly after I met with Bramble, he moved his wife out of the house, saying she was a distraction to his career. He started speaking in abstracts, showing not even the slightest grasp of the reality of his market value or options.

Eventually, I learned how much his meek surrender in the Rosario fight taunted him. I once revealed in an article how he'd gone so far as to hold a gun to his head and have to be talked out of suicide by two friends during a tense summer night a few years ago. Not lost on me was the irony that the dark side of Bramble's personal life was even more frightening than the fiercest image of him as a fighter.

So who is Bramble? A fairly normal guy who used an act to get himself noticed, or a screwball whose attempts at living a *Father Knows Best* existence was doomed from the start? The answer is that he is someone in between, a guy not so far out the loop that you need the Hubble telescope to locate him, but not simple enough to ever be easily understood.

There is nothing—and I emphasize *nothing*—black or white about him. All is gray. He is hypocrisy and contradiction, probably because he is incapable of understanding either. That's why, if I'm ever asked what to make of this enigma, I merely shake my head and offer the story of a conversation we had one day in his rec room.

He'd just shown me the tape of a fight he'd had two weeks earlier in his native St. Croix, and we'd gotten to talking about the island's natural beauty. Bramble told me he'd be making another trip there in just a few weeks. While there, he planned to meet some friends and engage in a Rasta ritual known as the *yabba pot*. Part of the evening, he explained, would be spent smoking marijuana.

Curious, I asked him a few minutes later why, after having recently returned home to New Jersey, he would be journeying back to St. Croix again so soon.

He looked me right in the face and told me matter-of-factly: To help kick off a "Just Say No To Drugs" campaign. ■

NEW

FACES

DAVID KAMAU

Junior Welterweight

PROFESSIONAL RECORD

1990

March 27	Roque Guerrero, Reseda, CA	KO 2
April 23	Daniel Williams, Inglewood, CA	KO 2
April 27	Paul Martinez, Richfield, UT	KO 2
May 7	Darron Roberts, Inglewood	KO 2
May 23	Luis Ambriz, Los Angeles	W 6
June 26	Allan McMasters, Reseda	KO 4
July 9	Damon Franklin, Inglewood	KO 1
Aug. 6	Jorge Rivera, Inglewood	KO 2
Aug. 28	Rogelio Montenegro, Reseda	KO 7
Nov. 19	Oscar Lopez, Inglewood	KO 5

1991

Jan. 14	Juan de la Paz, Inglewood	KO 3

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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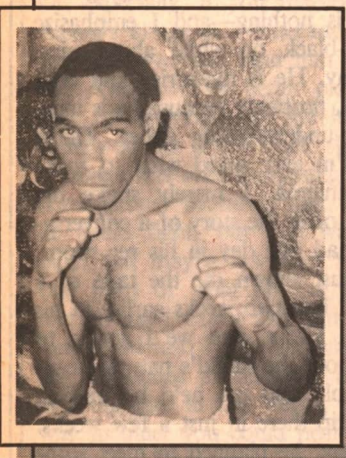
Photos By Brent Cook



By Joseph C. Tintle

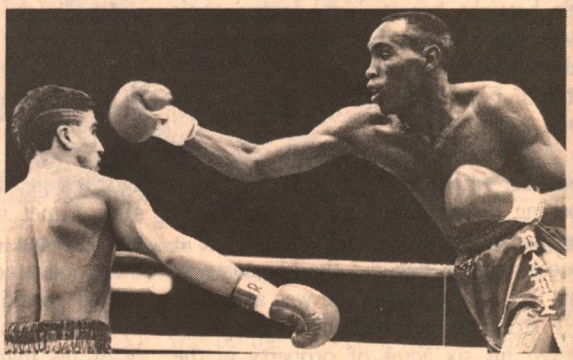
They talk about a fighter's loneliness in the ring, but few know the loneliness that David Kamau experiences after the sun goes down and darkness creeps up on Winona Boulevard in Los Angeles. His small apartment becomes solitary and sad, estranged from all other places in the world. Lying in bed, Kamau closes his eyes and pictures his wife, Esther, playing with their children, Elizabeth and James. And for just a moment, he exchanges a gaze of sadness with the three dim faces before him.

Kamau hasn't seen his family in more than a year because he's been pursuing a pro boxing career in the United States. His family continues to live among the Kikuyu tribe in Nairobi, Kenya.

"The homesickness is really starting to bother me," Kamau says. "I call my wife and kids as often as possible, but it's not the same as having them with me. And I know they're missing me."

The hearts of children are the most fragile of organs, and Elizabeth and James cried last Christmas Day when Kamau told them by telephone that he wouldn't be home for the holidays.

"There are times when I so deeply miss them that I cry myself to sleep," he says. "I've never been separated from my family, but as a Catholic, I pray to God to give me the strength to pull me through this time of my life."



At 5'11", Kamau is tall for a junior welter. This long right is headed for Oscar Lopez, who was kayoed in the fifth round last November.

The way Kamau sees it, he has little choice but to stay in the United States and try to become a world champion.

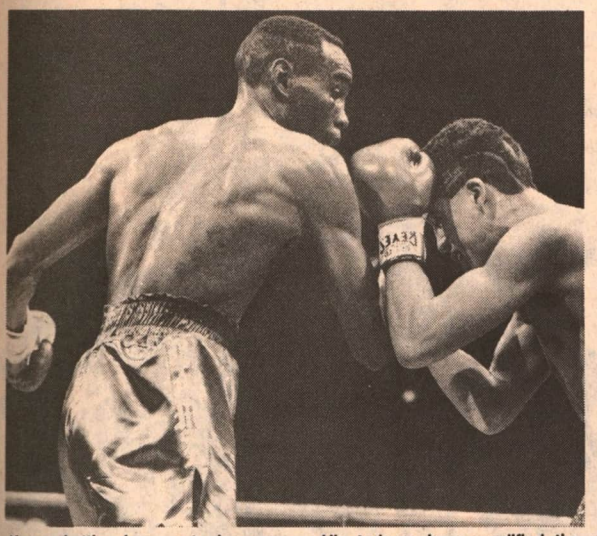
"Fighting is something I do well, and I want to make the most of it," he says. "And if I'm successful, I'll be able to make enough money to support my family."

Kamau, 25, arrived in Los Angeles in February 1990, af-

ter Nnambi Moweeta, who had been the manager of Young Dick Tiger, had gone to Africa to scout a fighter named Moses James on behalf of the fledgling Dame Boxing Club. When Steve Mwema, a Kenyan bantamweight, heard who Moweeta had come to see, he made a suggestion.

"I've got a friend named David Kamau who's beaten Moses James," Mwema told Moweeta. "He was a quarter-finalist in the 1988 Olympics. I think you'd better take a look at him."

When Moweeta reported to Marty Denkin, the general manager of the Dame Boxing Club, he received simple instructions. "Why go after Moses James if he lost to Kamau?" Denkin reasoned. "Get Kamau."



Kamau battles Lopez at close range. His trainers have modified the Kenyan's style. He now dances less and punches more.

Upon his arrival in America, Kamau was told that the Dame Boxing Club was only interested in championship-caliber fighters; anyone lacking discipline or motivation would promptly be asked to leave. But if Kamau stuck with the program and built a winning record, he could count on an apartment, $500 a month in spending money, and an atmosphere conducive to training.

"It sounded like a great opportunity," he said. "Ever since I was nine years old and saw Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in the 'Thrilla in Manila,' I dreamed of becoming a world champion. How I wanted to be like the great Ali, a heavyweight who floated and moved like a lightweight."

At first, Kamau moved like a bad imitation of Ali.

"David fought like the amateur he was," Denkin says. "He jumped around and slapped at his sparring partners. So we went to work on him."

That task fell to his trainers, former WBC bantamweight champion Albert Davila and Jesse Reid. In Kamau, they saw a relentless fighter, but one perhaps too relentless for his own good.

"David was a little too brave," Reid says. "He'd stick his chin out as if to say, 'Go ahead, hit me and I won't worry about it.' "

Davila has advised the 5'11" junior welterweight to utilize his 69-inch reach so that it will complement his natural power. Delivered in combination, Kamau's jab and hook have produced several spectacular knockouts. Among his victims has been highly regarded Mexican Rogelio Montenegro. The southpaw knocked down Kamau in the first round and battered him until the seventh, when Kamau broke through his guard. He kayoed Montenegro with a flurry and left him unconscious for 15 minutes.

"That David can punch there is no question," Denkin says. "But to be straightforward, we have no idea how he'd react if he was nailed by a banger. We'll determine that soon enough, though, when he faces more aggressive opponents."

Kamau is a year away from fighting contenders in the highly competitive junior welterweight division. For the moment, he will concentrate on patiently perfecting his offense and further developing his defense.

Most of the money Kamau earns is wired to his family, leaving him only $200 a month. His frugality is already legendary among his stablemates and trainers.

"One time," Denkin recalled, "we were all in a restaurant, and David had to go to the bathroom. As he got up to go, we told him that it would cost a quarter to use the stall. You should've seen how fast he sat back down. And as far as I can remember, he didn't go until he got back home, Man, was he was going nuts twitching in his seat. But he wouldn't spend the extra money. You see, in his country, people make only $300-to-$350 a month, and a quarter means a lot. After we found that out, we laid off the jokes."

Kamau laughs about the incident. He's in a lighter mood these days because it looks as if his wife and children will soon join him in Los Angeles.

"I pray to God this comes true," he says. "It has been so difficult for all of us."

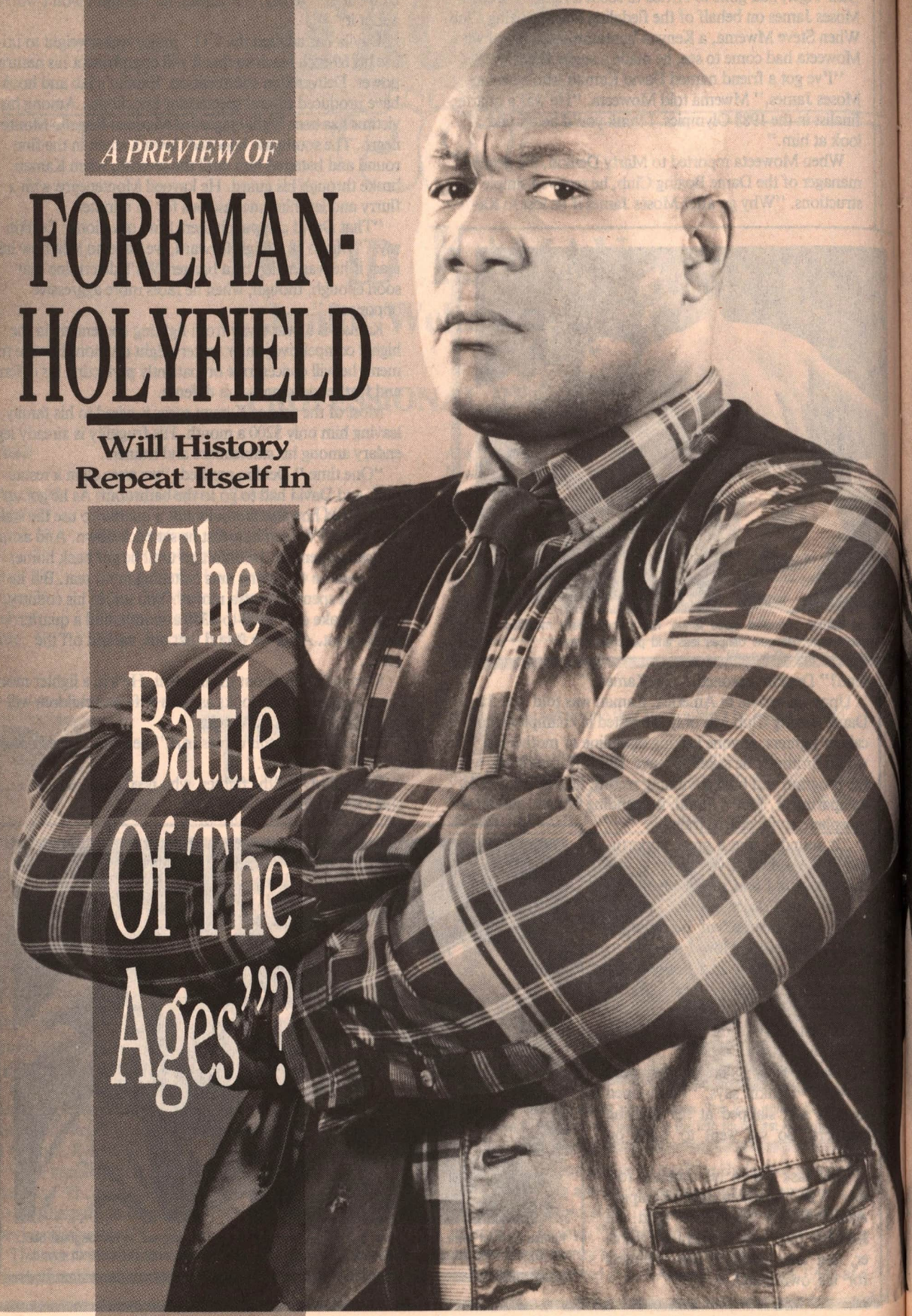
Particularly for the fighter, who needs to shake the shackles of loneliness. ■

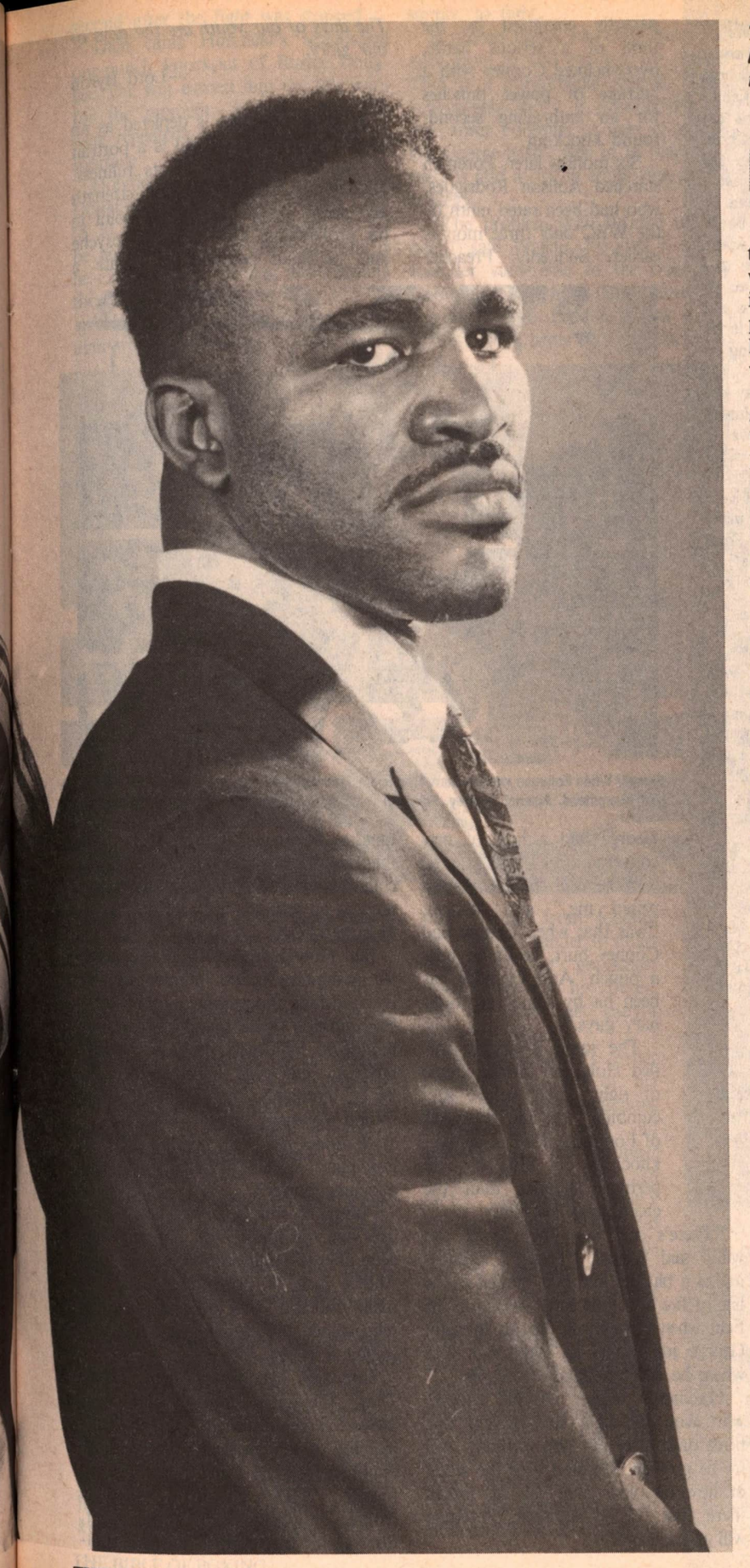
Kamau's power wore down Lopez, but he needs to improve on his defense. In his toughest bout, an August 1990 stoppage of Rogelio Montenegro, he was battered until the seventh round.

A PREVIEW OF

FOREMAN-HOLYFIELD

Will History Repeat Itself In "The Battle Of The Ages"?





They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor their years condemn.
—Laurence Binyon

By Robert Cassidy

George Foreman has found an abundance of unspent youth these days. In contrast to his heavyweight reign, during which he terrorized the division with unparalleled power and a menacing scowl, Foreman has approached his second boxing life with the joy and enthusiasm of a child.

And why not? Martina Navratilova, at the age of 33, won her record-breaking ninth Wimbledon singles title last year, and in the world of women's tennis, she was eons beyond her prime. Nolan Ryan, 44, still fires a fastball that pops. So Foreman, a bald and plump 42-year-old former heavyweight champion, still pops people, too.

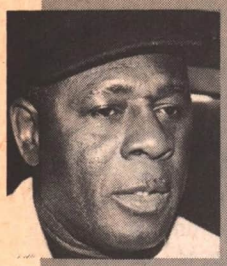
Foreman's unspent youth has materialized in the form of a smiling preacher, who, with self-depricating humor, jets across the country and turns press conferences into standup routines. It is not exactly an image that evokes fear, or even apprehension, from legitimate heavyweights. And what many would believe are the advantages that come with age—experience and guile—Foreman fails to utilize. He fights like a slow, plodding Geritol Giant. No clever tactics. No cute tricks. Just raw strength and power. Basic terms for a basic fighter: Foreman is a ponderous puncher who methodically clubs his opponents into submission.

On April 19 in Atlantic City, Foreman, 69-2 (65), will attempt to punch undisputed heavyweight king Evander Holyfield into la-la land and become the oldest heavyweight champion in history. If he succeeds in breaking down the chiseled champion, Foreman will eclipse the record of Jersey Joe Walcott, who won the title at age 37 by knocking out Ezzard Charles in 1952.

"I definitely give Foreman a chance," said ABC analyst Alex Wallau. "If there was ever a guy having only a puncher's chance, this is it."

When Foreman ruled as champion, in 1973 and 1974, his knockouts were spectacles to be marveled at. He obliterated his opponents with sweeping hooks and uppercuts. In 1991, it is Foreman who is the spectacle. Yet he has retained enough power in those hooks and uppercuts to position him-

WHY EVANDER HOLYFIELD WILL WIN



George Benton, Evander Holyfield's trainer: "George is a much smarter fighter than he was in his first career. Archie Moore has been teaching him to cross his arms on defense, so we'll have to take a page out of Rocky Marciano's book. Marciano hit Moore where he couldn't miss, on the arms and shoulders. If Evander doesn't see an opening, he's going to hit him in the biceps and the shoulders. Then I'm gonna take a little bit from Ali. Except we're not going to be lying on the ropes.

"We have to maintain stamina and stay out of trouble. I don't want Evander getting into a fight with him early. When Foreman was a young man, he didn't have stamina, so what makes you think he'll have stamina now?

"Evander is going to outthink him and outpunch him—bang, bang, bang, and make him miss. Evander is as cold as ice water. Foreman is not going to do anything to make him change his mind about winning. And Evander's got the tools to win."

WHY GEORGE FOREMAN WILL WIN

Archie Moore, George Foreman's trainer: "I think that Big George Foreman is the greatest fighter around today, and I believe he will win back the heavyweight title. He is motivated by all the youth groups he's started in Texas.

"It's no secret that George's strength is his power. He's knocked everybody out. He's only gone the distance once since he came back 24 fights ago. George's strategy has been designed since his comeback started: Knock guys out. That's the only way you get the attention. The public demanded this fight because they want to see what George can do.

"I think Evander Holyfield is a fine and dedicated champion. He trains hard and he's won all of his fights. I think he may try to take the fight into the later rounds and attempt to wear George down. But George has plenty of talent that he is just beginning to realize.

"George Foreman will beat Holyfield."

self into contention for the title.

The power he has retained was never more evident than against former contender Gerry Cooney last year. Most observers scoffed at the list of undistinguished heavyweights, and, even worse, undistinguished *cruiserweights*, whom Foreman had faced prior to fighting Cooney. If nothing else, the 33-year-old Long Islander figured to present Big George with a formidable left hook.

Cooney managed to land the hook often in round one. But Foreman, apparently energized by the thrill of a serious battle, overwhelmed Cooney with a barrage of power punches for an enthralling second-round knockout.

Six months later, Foreman starched Adilson Rodrigues, who had been rated ninth by the WBC only three months earlier. Suddenly, Preacher

The days of our youth are the days of our glory.

—Lord Byron

Whereas Foreman is depicted as an ancient warrior, Holyfield is a portrait of youth, captured in all its fullness. His sculpted body is alive with strength and speed. At 28, he is at a point in his professional life where his psyche and physique combine to create a

Power: When Foreman kayoed Gerry Cooney in January 1990, a try at the world title was all but guaranteed. Against Cooney, Foreman was frighteningly accurate with his punches.

George had a host of new converts.

"The one thing that surprised me," said Wallau, "was that when George had Cooney hurt, he didn't miss a punch. And Evander has been hit by some very ordinary guys."

The same Rodrigues rattled Holyfield with a couple of right hands before succumbing. Yet the prospects of Foreman, a 4-1 underdog, knocking out Holyfield are perhaps slimmer than the champion's waistline.

"There's only one way George can win," said Wallau. "That's if Evander makes a blunder and puts himself in the line of fire at a time early enough in the fight when George still has his strength. George just wants to make it a case where he gets his punch there first."

Foreman's trainer, Archie Moore, who won the light heavyweight title three days after his 39th birthday, will try to provide Foreman with the secret of how an older man gets his punch there first. If he succeeds, Foreman will make history.

mindset of invincibility. It is mindset that is shared by most heavyweight champions, and one that Foreman used as an intimidating tool during his 21-month reign.

But Holyfield shows little concern for intangibles such as intimidation. He is a machine programmed for victory. Each portion of his training is carefully monitored by fitness specialists, bodybuilders, and even ballet instructors. He is, ultimately, the antithesis of the rotund Foreman.

"Evander has every possible edge on Foreman," said Wallau, "except punching power."

Power, of course, is the great equalizer, and the sole reason Foreman has been able to secure a shot at the title. And a lack of power has been the main criticism of Holyfield since he relinquished the cruiserweight title and sought a bigger prize.

Stoppages over heavyweights James Tillis, Pinklon Thomas, and Alex Stewart were tarnished by Holyfield's inability to send at least one of those opponents to the canvas. But against former WBA champion Michael Dokes, Holyfield made a statement, flooring his foe, even if it was a split-

second after the fight was stopped.

Then came Holyfield's sensational one-punch knockout of Buster Douglas. The win earned him the title and, for the moment, quelled those who were repeatedly pointing to the power shortage.

Holyfield, who weighed 208 against Douglas, is expected to give away close to 50 pounds against Foreman. It will be an advantage for Foreman only if he exploits it by pushing and mauling the champion about the ring.

"He may revert to the George Foreman who constantly pushed Joe Frazier away whenever he tried to get inside," said Wallau. "Frazier couldn't deal with it. Sometimes the safest place in a storm is near the eye. If Evander were to make a mistake, he should make sure he was near Foreman's chest. The last thing he wants to do is pull out."

Although Holyfield's trainer, George Benton, has indicated that Holyfield will show some movement, it's not likely that he'll transform the fighter into a heavyweight version of Hector Camacho.

"Evander will have to be very agile against George," said Benton. "If you make this guy miss for five or six rounds, he won't be in first gear very long."

While Holyfield showed patience and an effective jab against Douglas, he had previously shown that he knows only one way to fight. That is, simply, to fight.

In certain fights, Holyfield has averaged close to 100 punches per round. That is a phenomenal statistic for a heavyweight. So it is possible that he may force Foreman to fight at a pace Big George hasn't seen in 18 years. But there is also a risk in employing such a strategy.

"The problem with turning up the heat," said Wallau, "is that it makes Evander vulnerable to the only way George can beat him. If he stands flatfooted, George could land one of his bombs. He'll throw enough punches to keep George from loading up. I think Evander is smart enough, and he's got smart enough people in his corner, that he won't get caught flatfooted early."

Also in Holyfield's corner is history. In two of the most significant matchups between young and old heavyweights, the younger fighter has won easily. In 1951, 28-year-old Rocky Marciano retired 37-year-old former champion Joe Louis with an eighth-round knockout. The second example came in a fight that hits closer to Foreman's heart. In 1962, a 20-year-old phenom named Cassius Clay battered Archie Moore en route to a fourth-round knockout. Moore was one month shy of his 49th birthday.

One has to look back only to February 9, 1991, to witness an example of a younger fighter beating an older one. Sugar Ray Leonard may have been able to feast on his fellow Seniors Tour members, but 23-year-old Terry Norris punched the 34-year-old legend into his fifth, and presumably final, retirement.

"It'll be worse for Foreman," said Joe Sayatovich, Norris' manager. "Old men against young men doesn't work in boxing. The reflexes go, and they can't get out of the way of punches. This could really hurt boxing because George isn't like Ray. He's a big, big guy. He won't go down. He'll just get pummeled."

If boxing history tells us anything, it is that great young fighters will beat great old fighters every time. ■

Power: When Holyfield kayoed Buster Douglas with one punch, he silenced some of the critics who had questioned his finishing touch.

STAFF PICKS

Steve Farhood, Editor-in-Chief: The most overrated factor of this fight is Foreman's power. He'll land a few times early, but he'll never string together any punches, and he'll never hurt Holyfield. The keys will be speed, youth, and concentration. Discouraged by Holyfield's sharp counters, Foreman will begin to retreat. He'll fall in the seventh and be counted out.

Jeff Ryan, Managing Editor: The glaring difference in hand speed will prevent Foreman from dominating any exchange and leave fans grumbling afterward that the Foreman who won 24 comeback fights didn't show up. It'll be the same Foreman, all right, but Holyfield will make him appear to be fighting in slow-motion. Look for Big George to drop from a left hook in round three, then be rescued by his corner when a followup barrage renders him helpless.

Robert Cassidy, Associate Editor: Holyfield will be patient in the first few rounds as Foreman tries to get off the one big punch. But as Foreman's bombs miss, Holyfield will make him pay with sharp counters. In round five, Holyfield will land a barrage of unanswered punches and Foreman just won't be able to cope. Holyfield by fifth-round TKO.

Ed Maloney, Associate Editor: Holyfield has *everything* going for him; he's at the top of his game, physically and mentally. Everyone knows that Foreman's only chance is to land the big punch. It's a million-to-one shot. But it won't happen against this champion. Holyfield should win big. This could be as one-sided as the Larry Holmes-Tex Cobb fight. Holyfield by 10th-round TKO.

Joseph C. Tintle, Associate Editor: No way Foreman can win this fight. If he does, I'll go one round with him at a McDonald's of his choosing. Speed, speed, speed will be Holyfield's method of dispatching everybne's favorite preacher. I don't see Holyfield panicking and trying for a first-round knockout, but he'll find his opening by round three and overwhelm Big George with a flurry.

The RING

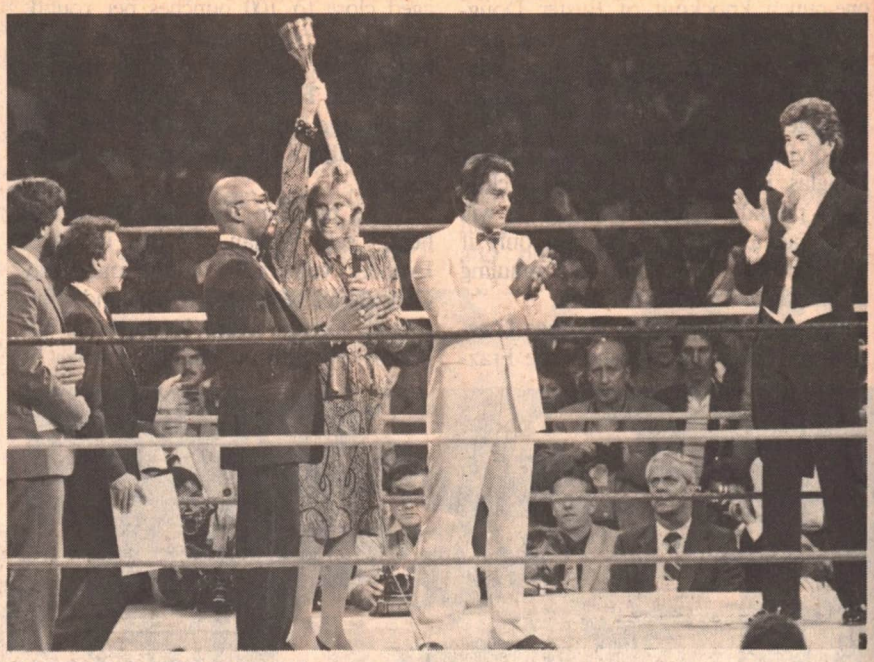
Compiled By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

TRAINING IN TIMES SQUARE

(June 16, 1969)

It looks like New Year's Eve in Times Square, except for the bright sunshine. The feature attraction is not waiting for the ball to fall at midnight, but Smokin' Joe Frazier, who is determined to keep the heavyweight title when he faces Jerry Quarry the following week at Madison Square Garden. To pump up soft advance ticket sales, Garden publicity director John Condon dreamed up the "Training Camp in Times Square" gimmick. The next day, 2,609 tickets were sold, a more than 50 percent increase over the previous day. Frazier (right), shown driving sparringmate Don Warner into the ropes, retained the crown by TKO.



CARRYING THE TORCH

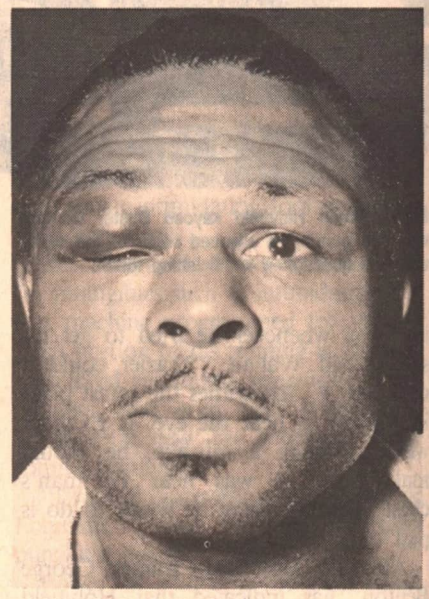
(October 26, 1983)

Middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler and Roberto Duran stand between the Olympic torch held high by swimming gold medalist Donna DeVerona during ceremonies in support of the forthcoming Olympics. Hagler is scheduled to defend the title against Duran in Las Vegas on November 10th. The next morning, the Marvelous One and his determined challenger were back in training for their upcoming "Battle of the Champions," which Marvin won by decision to retain the title.

BLOODY MESS

(January 10, 1941)

If records were kept on the amount of blood spilled in a Madison Square Garden main event, surely the heavyweight bout between Lou Nova and Pat Comiskey would rank near the top of the list. It was only the fourth round of the scheduled 10-round bout when this picture was taken, and already Comiskey's face looks like a chopped steak. His mouth is torn, his nose streams a combination of blood and gore, his right eye is closed, and the brow is sliced open and bleeding. But the plucky Jersey City Irishman somehow managed to survive the distance, although he was so far gone in the final round that many appalled fans had left the arena. Oh, yes, Californian Nova won the decision. The total number of stitches needed to seal the wounds of both fighters was a whopping 46.



PINPOINT BOMBING

(September 21, 1955)

Even in defeat, Archie Moore kept his dignity and wore his wounds with the same pride a war hero wears his Purple Heart. After failing to strip Rocky Marciano of the heavyweight crown at Yankee Stadium, Archie cools off in his dressing room and unashamedly permits photographers to record for posterity the perfect shiner. Archie's right eye had been Marciano's prime target throughout the bruising brawl, and when Moore was finally poleaxed in the ninth round, his eye was swollen shut, tight as a drum, and the normal sepia color of his flesh had changed to deep tones of black and blue; undeniable proof of Rocky's murderous power.

THE BULLDOG AND THE SUGARMAN

(December 26, 1957)

While in the final days of training for his title defense against Gene Fullmer, middleweight king Sugar Ray Robinson welcomed old "Toy Bulldog" Mickey Walker to his camp in Greenwood Lake, New Jersey. Of course it was just another gimmick arranged by Ray's publicists. But after posing for the routine press photos (like this one), Walker, who, like Robinson, held both the welterweight and middleweight crowns, cornered Ray, and with only Sugar's manager, George Gainford, listening in, advised Ray to "try for a fast knockout."

"This kid Fullmer is like a bull," Mickey said with a grin. "Not a Bulldog, like me. A bull. A real bull. And he's got 10 years on you, too. If you don't nail him in six rounds, the most, six rounds, you lose."

How right Walker was. Fullmer stripped the Sugarman of the crown by romping to a 15-round decision.

GUESS WHO'S OLDER

(May 11, 1971)

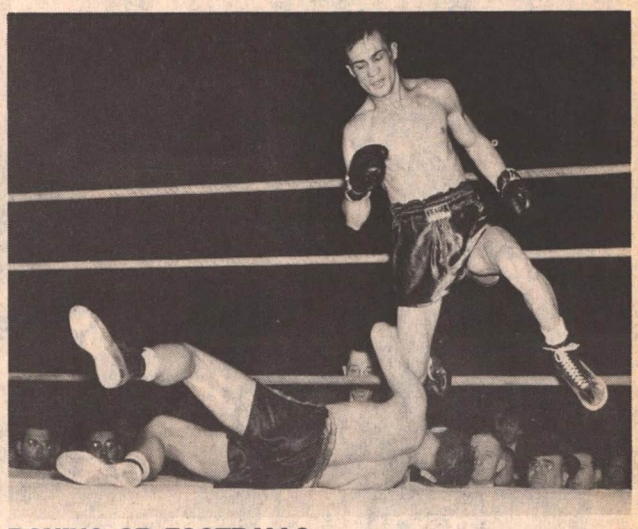
Pretend you don't recognize these men, which of course you do. Make a bet: Judging solely on the way they look, which of them is older? If you put your money on the man on the right, Joe Louis, you'd lose. And by a whopping nine years! For the man on the left is Joe's old foe, Max Schmeling. The occasion was a gala bash at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, celebrating Louis' 57th birthday. Frank Sinatra, who idolized the "Brown Bomber," led the dazzling array of stars from show business and the sports world, and hundreds of ordinary folks who came to pay tribute to one of America's greatest legends.

Schmeling, who came all the way from Germany to pay his respects, rubbed his hand across Joe's balding head. "You look in great shape," Max said. But when interviewed in New York the following day, Schmeling expressed concern about his old rival. "Joe should take better care of himself," said Max. Louis died in 1981, just one month short of his 67th birthday. Max Schmeling is still doing early-morning roadwork back in Germany at the age of 86.

WELCOME TO CUBA

(August 3, 1956)

Kid Chocolate welcomes Nat Fleischer to Cuba during *The Ring* editor's fact-finding mission as guest of the government. Chocolate, who held both the world junior lightweight and featherweight titles during the '30s, was a national hero and unquestionably the most idolized Cuban boxer of all time. He lost only 10 of 148 fights during his memorable 10-year career (1928-1938). Affectionately known as "The Cuban Bon Bon," the "Keed" was elected to *The Ring* Hall of Fame in 1959.



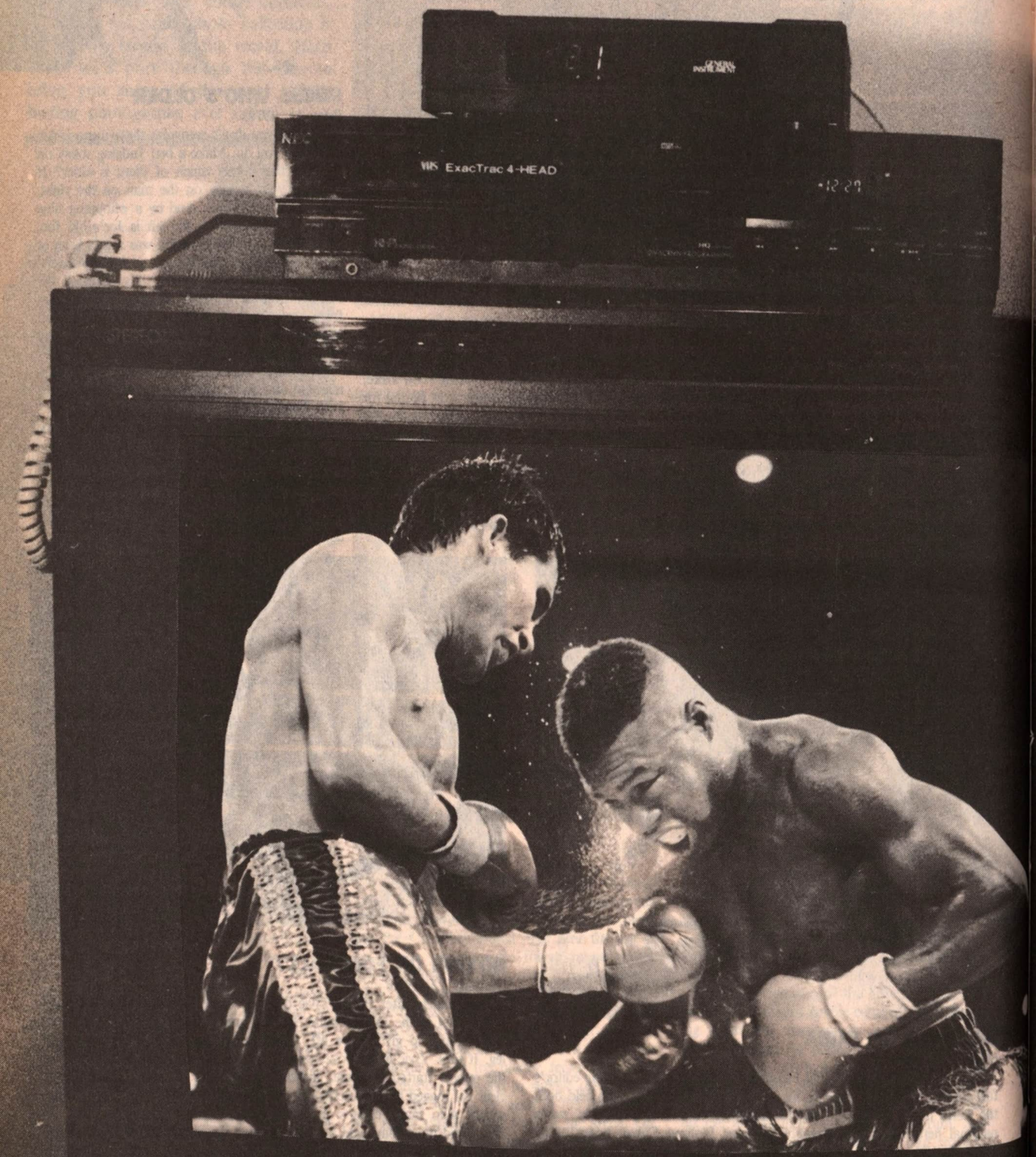
BOXING OR FOOTBALL?

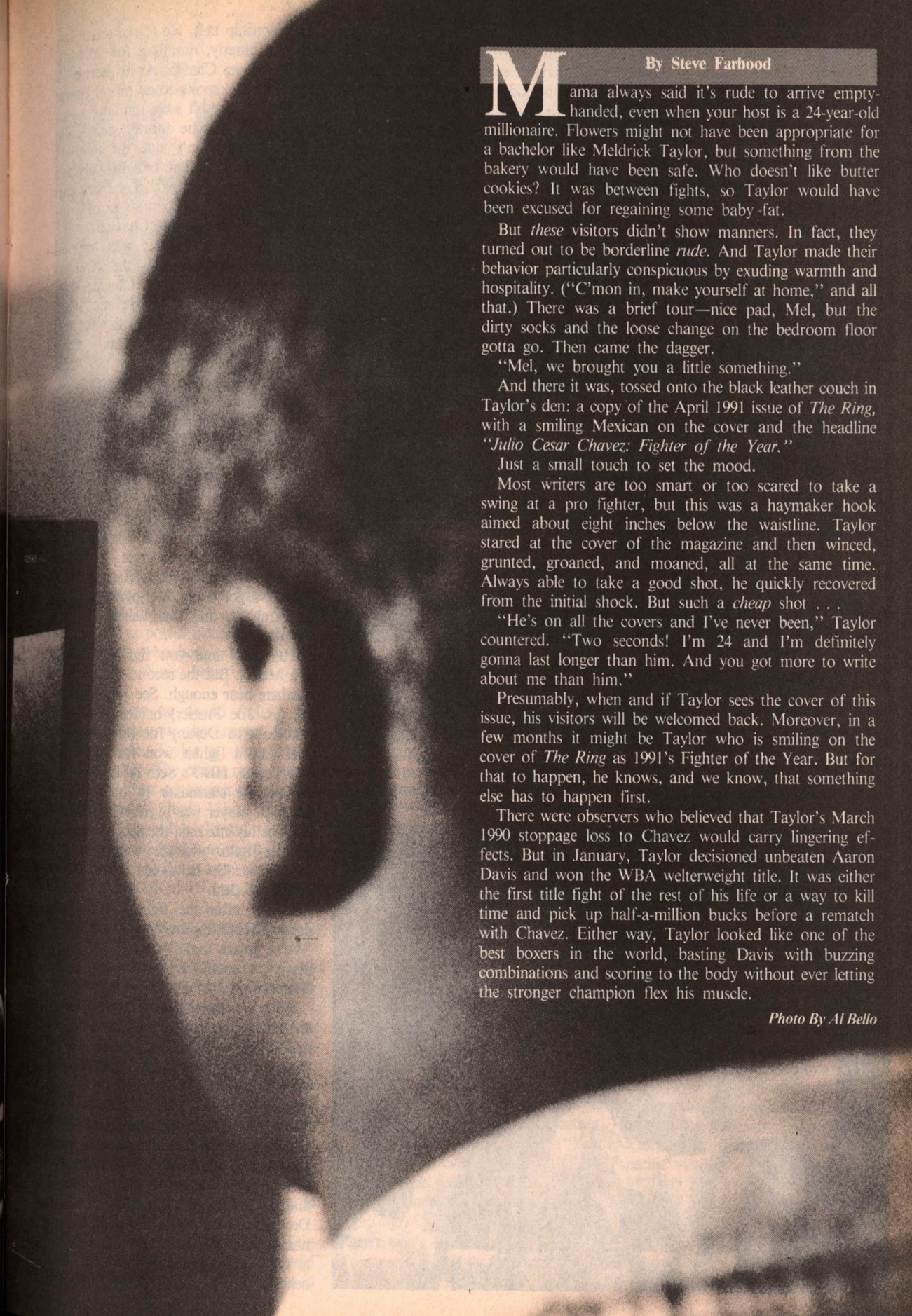
(January 22, 1940)

Immediately after Fritzie Zivic dropped Mike Kaplan with a left hook to the chin in the fourth round, Kaplan grabbed desperately for anything within range to give him a lift, which just happened to be Fritzie's right leg. It took Zivic about four seconds to jerk his leg loose, which is when the referee started to count, thereby giving Mike precious bonus time to clear his fogged brain. Kaplan, an exceptionally talented New York welterweight who many experts predicted would become champion, beat the count and more than held his own through the remainder of the Philadelphia bout, but Fritzie was awarded the 10-round decision. Ten months later, Zivic startled the world by winning the welterweight title from the incomparable Henry Armstrong.

PAIN, FRUSTRATION, CONFIDENCE, AND HOPE

Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez





By Steve Farhood

Mama always said it's rude to arrive empty-handed, even when your host is a 24-year-old millionaire. Flowers might not have been appropriate for a bachelor like Meldrick Taylor, but something from the bakery would have been safe. Who doesn't like butter cookies? It was between fights, so Taylor would have been excused for regaining some baby-fat.

But *these* visitors didn't show manners. In fact, they turned out to be borderline *rude.* And Taylor made their behavior particularly conspicuous by exuding warmth and hospitality. ("C'mon in, make yourself at home," and all that.) There was a brief tour—nice pad, Mel, but the dirty socks and the loose change on the bedroom floor gotta go. Then came the dagger.

"Mel, we brought you a little something."

And there it was, tossed onto the black leather couch in Taylor's den: a copy of the April 1991 issue of *The Ring,* with a smiling Mexican on the cover and the headline *"Julio Cesar Chavez: Fighter of the Year."*

Just a small touch to set the mood.

Most writers are too smart or too scared to take a swing at a pro fighter, but this was a haymaker hook aimed about eight inches below the waistline. Taylor stared at the cover of the magazine and then winced, grunted, groaned, and moaned, all at the same time. Always able to take a good shot, he quickly recovered from the initial shock. But such a *cheap* shot . . .

"He's on all the covers and I've never been," Taylor countered. "Two seconds! I'm 24 and I'm definitely gonna last longer than him. And you got more to write about me than him."

Presumably, when and if Taylor sees the cover of this issue, his visitors will be welcomed back. Moreover, in a few months it might be Taylor who is smiling on the cover of *The Ring* as 1991's Fighter of the Year. But for that to happen, he knows, and we know, that something else has to happen first.

There were observers who believed that Taylor's March 1990 stoppage loss to Chavez would carry lingering effects. But in January, Taylor decisioned unbeaten Aaron Davis and won the WBA welterweight title. It was either the first title fight of the rest of his life or a way to kill time and pick up half-a-million bucks before a rematch with Chavez. Either way, Taylor looked like one of the best boxers in the world, basting Davis with buzzing combinations and scoring to the body without ever letting the stronger champion flex his muscle.

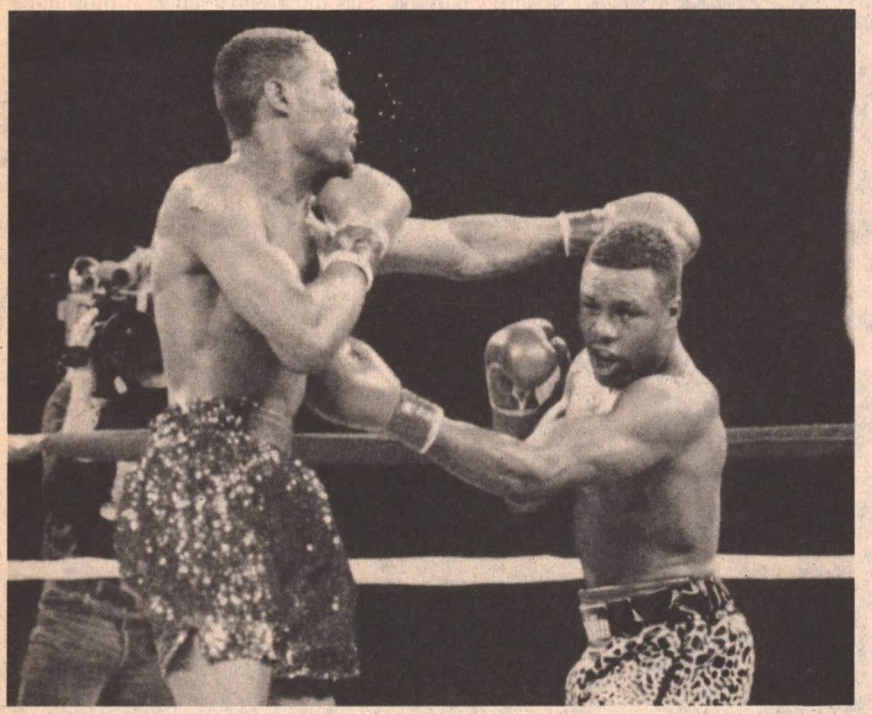
Photo By Al Bello

"He learned something from the Chavez fight," said Joe Cardona, Taylor's lawyer. "He learned how to sacrifice his warrior instincts and use his God-given talents. That manifested itself against Davis."

Taylor is a champion again, a star on HBO, and, at 24, a cornerstone of boxing's future. But that doesn't mean that he's left the past behind. He's a winner again, and a champion, too, and more than a year removed from St. Patrick's Day, 1990. But the conversation always turns. And returns.

"I haven't had time to think about the opposition at welterweight," he said while digging his fingers into a bag of chocolate chip cookies and then sipping a glass of milk. "The names don't mean anything."

That's because Chavez still means everything. In February, at the WBA awards dinner in Atlantic City, Taylor was presented with his welterweight championship belt. He spoke graciously, then bitterly, rambling for 20 long minutes about Chavez. At his home 11 days later, he spoke some more. Same subject. He doesn't seem unhappy, and most of the time he doesn't seem confused. But he can't hide the internal conflict, either. What he's not always willing to acknowledge is that there can be no winner in that conflict until Taylor is a winner against Chavez.



Stronger and thicker than when he fought at 140, Taylor nonetheless outsped Aaron Davis and won the WBA welterweight crown in January (above). It was a much easier bout than his previous title fight, a 12th-round stoppage loss to Julio Cesar Chavez in March 1990 (below). Taylor wants revenge in a 147-pound defense against Chavez. But the Mexican continues to campaign in the junior welterweight class.

After Thomas Hearns was kayoed by Sugar Ray Leonard—the circumstances were similar to Chavez-Taylor—demons danced inside his head for 10 years. But at least he got his chance at redemption, and then mocked the odds by capitalizing. As a result, he sleeps soundly. In contrast, Marvin Hagler was too spent to get that second chance, and only he knows how he sleeps. When you think about what things *could* be like, Taylor is having it relatively easy.

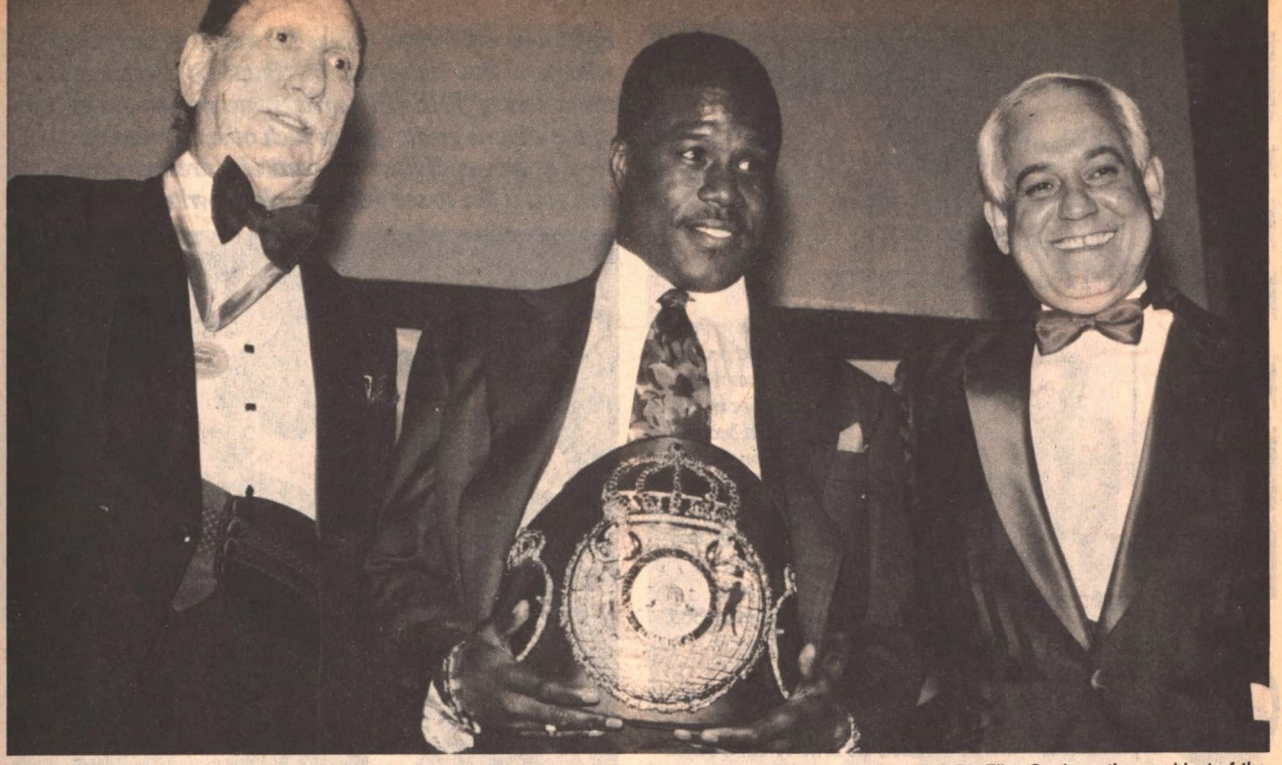
"I had a fear of losing," he said. "I felt I wouldn't be appreciated. Now I know I can come back from defeat and still be considered great. I wanted to be in a great fight against a great fighter. I got credit for giving a great performance, and that helped me get over it."

The first time you fight to prove you belong. But the second time, that's nowhere near enough. See Muhammad Ali (vs. Joe Frazier) or Ray Leonard (vs. Roberto Duran) for references.

If ever a fighter won for losing, it was Taylor. HBO's Seth Abraham, every bit the starmaker in boxing that Louis B. Mayer was in movies, realized that for his interests, the significance of Chavez-Taylor was the war, and not the winner. So he signed Taylor to a multifight deal.

"Right after the fight," said Cardona, "HBO approached us and said, 'We're gonna make you a star.' That played no small part in allowing us to accept what had happened."

What's happened since is that Taylor has added seven pounds and a second title, while his promoter, Dan Duva, and Chavez' promoter, Don King, have begun reaching for each other's throats. Before Taylor dethroned Davis, a non-title rematch with Chavez was signed and sealed, with each fighter to receive $2.5-million. But it was never delivered because Duva and King decided to rumble first. (In December, King went so far as to announce that the rematch would occur at the Mirage on February 2. No one believed him because the Taylor-Davis



At the annual WBA awards dinner in Atlantic City, Taylor was presented with his welterweight title belt. On the left is Dr. Elias Cordova, the president of the organization's championship committee. On the right is WBA president Gilberto Mendoza. Taylor's first defense will be vs. unbeaten Venezuelan Luis Garcia.

fight was already set for January 19.) In the battle of promoters, Mike Tyson (King) and Evander Holyfield (Duva) are played as power pieces, and Taylor and Chavez, who both want and need each other, have been among the casualties.

Asked how he would feel if, for whatever reasons, he never fought Chavez again, Taylor sat upright and spoke quickly. The phone rang, but he made no effort to answer it.

"If I didn't think I beat him the first time," he said, "there would be the necessity to fight him again. But he didn't take anything away from me. It's not frustration; I *know* I beat that guy."

Then, only seconds later, came evidence of the conflict.

"I do want to fight him again," he continued. "I wish I could fight him tomorrow. If there was one thing I could do, it would be to fight him again. That would be the highlight of my career."

It doesn't matter; nothing matters more. Taylor offers both sentiments with sincerity and conviction. Listen to him, though, and you sense that the former is used as a shield, and the latter as an arrow. Given Taylor's fighting style, the arrow seems more appropriate.

A funny thing about a Chavez-Taylor rematch: Taylor would be favored to win, even though he was stopped the first time. In that fight, he was ahead at the time of the stoppage, but admits that only his will enabled him to fight for 12 rounds. He was dehydrated and had swallowed two pints of blood. And as early as the second round, he had suffered a small fracture of the bone surrounding his left eye. Gory stuff.

"I fought him on the inside because I knew that he'd think I was scared if I ran," Taylor said, "but also because I couldn't see; my left eye was blurry from the second round on. Chavez was moving even when he wasn't moving. That made me dizzy, too. In close, I knew I'd be touching him, and I knew that when I punched, I could land. I was praying to God because of my eye, 'Just let me finish on my feet.' "

It's unlikely that a rematch would produce as desperate a scenario. The Davis fight suggested that Taylor is perfect at 145 pounds, beefy on top, but well-muscled and still faster than anyone but stablemate Pernell Whitaker. Taylor will never break bones at welterweight, but he wasn't a puncher at junior welterweight either. ("You can't give him what God didn't give him," trainer George Benton said of the power shortage.) And while he was surprisingly successful mixing with Chavez, he's learned that there are easier ways to win a fight.

Moreover, there are doubts as to whether Chavez can add any more weight. He's already jumped from featherweight to junior lightweight to lightweight to junior welterweight. He's only 5'7", and it's hard to imagine that seven more pounds, or even five, would do anything but slow him down. And Taylor is adamant that the rematch would be fought for *his* title.

"A non-title fight makes no sense," he said. "I want to put my title on the line. It gives *me* motivation, and it gives *him* motivation. I won the welterweight title, and I sent out a message. *I* want the upper hand this time. 144 pounds? I say no. I give him no type of leverage at all. Why should I? At 147, I'd probably come in two pounds light anyway, and he'd come in at 144 or 145. I would kill him."

He'll probably get the chance. Chavez wants the fight as much as Taylor does, and King's history suggests that when there's money to be made, he'll brush personal differences aside.

Flipping through the pages of *The Ring,* Taylor stopped at the ratings. In the pound-for-pound listing, he found himself at number five, but only one victory away from number one. One specific victory.

"I will beat him; I will come back and beat him," he promised. "Meldrick Taylor is a better fighter than Julio Cesar Chavez."

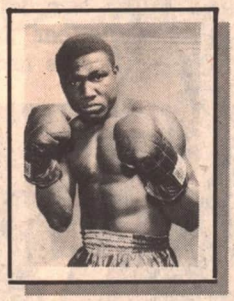
Being great's been great. Now it's time to be the best. ■

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Dick Tiger

Amaigbo, Nigeria
Career: 1952-1970
61-17-3 with 26 kayos



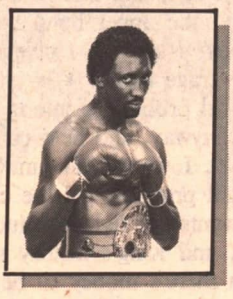
It's hard to believe that a fighter who turned pro against Easy Dynamite, Lion Ring, and Super Human Power could become a world champion, but Tiger, born Richard Ihetu, did just that. Tiger was taught how to box by British military officials. He turned pro in Nigeria, moved to England in 1955, and shifted his boxing base to the United States in 1959.

Only 5'8", Tiger was a counterpuncher with exceptional strength and a dependable chin. He first gained prominence when he captured the British middleweight title in 1958. In 1962, he won the WBA middleweight crown via decision over Gene Fullmer, and one year later, stopped Fullmer in seven rounds to win universal recognition. Tiger lost and regained the title vs. Joey Giardello, and in 1966, was dethroned by Emile Griffith. Eight months later, he outpointed Jose Torres to win the light heavyweight title.

In December 1971, only five months after announcing his retirement, Tiger died in his homeland of liver cancer. He was 42.

Thomas Hearns

Detroit, Michigan
Career: 1977-Present
48-3-1 with 39 kayos



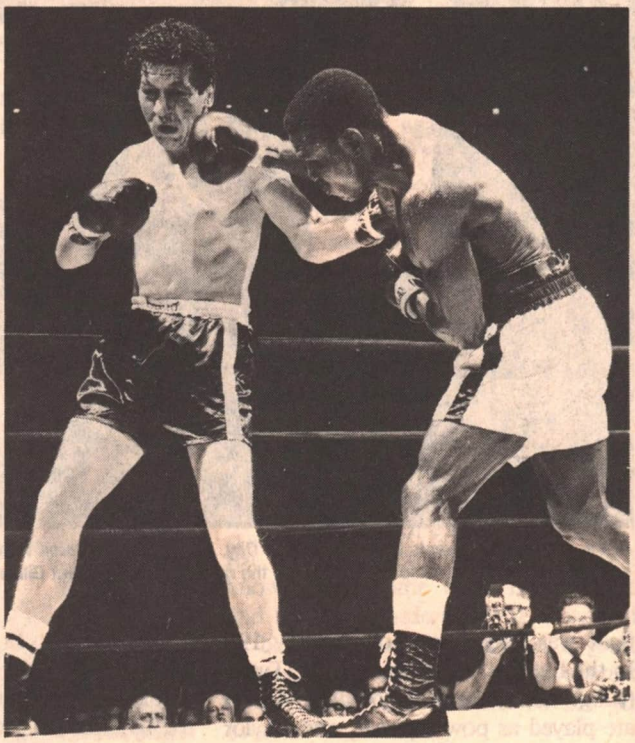
Hearns, nicknamed the "Hit Man," will be remembered for the superfights he lost, as well as those he won. He was the most exciting fighter of the '80s, and became the first boxer in history to win world titles in four different weight classes.

Hearns first showcased his devastating right cross as a 6'2" welterweight. He kayoed his first 17 foes, and in August 1980, won the WBA title with a second-round knockout of Pipino Cuevas. In September 1981, he was stopped by Ray Leonard in a highly anticipated unification match.

Hearns rebounded to win titles at 154 pounds (outpointing Wilfred Benitez), 175 (kayoing Dennis Andries), and 160 (stopping Juan Roldan). In his first try for the middleweight crown, he was kayoed by Marvin Hagler. The first round of that battle was arguably the greatest round ever.

Somewhat faded, Hearns, 32, fights on. He is scheduled to challenge WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill in June.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.



Tiger and Joey Giardello swap bombs in October 1965. Tiger regained the middleweight crown on points. It was their fourth and last clash.

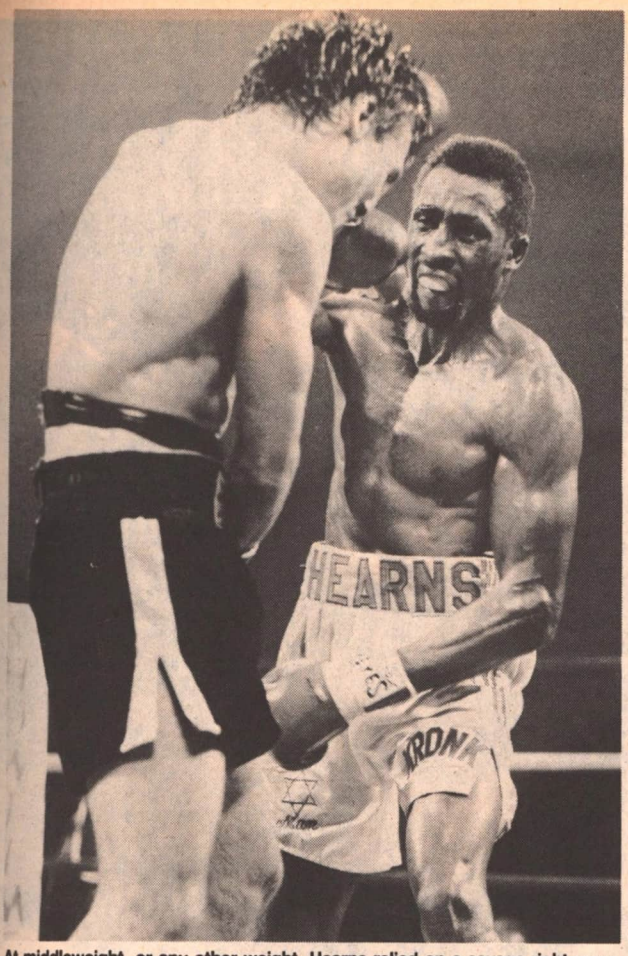
MEL GREB

Tiger-Hearns would be a match of endurance, and Tiger had more of it than Hearns. Hearns is the greatest early-rounds knockout artist of modern times. I remember Marvin Hagler telling me after they fought, "Man, this guy can whack!" He's was a thrill-provider who could not only kayo you with that straight right hand, but also had a left hook to go with it. Just a devastating puncher. If he got there first, he just might've kayoed Tiger.

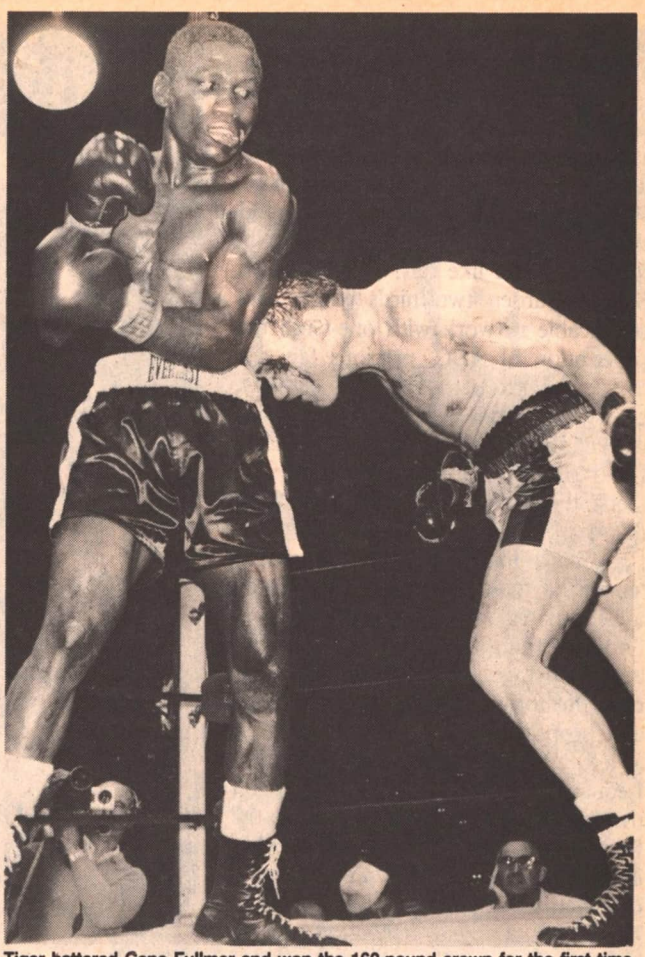
Tiger was a durable sonuvabitch. He wasn't a fancy dan, and he could be outmaneuvered, as he was by Emile Griffith and Joey Giardello. But he had a great chin, especially at middleweight, and he could lead or counter. He was also a better-than-average puncher. He could take command of a fight with his infighting and non-stop punching.

Tiger couldn't box much; the only way for him to fight would be to get inside and crowd Hearns. Tiger was a bulldog. Hearns was a little delicate in the chin, and Tiger's strength would prevail. It would be the Fight of the Century, with Tiger winning by decision.

Mel Greb is a veteran promoter and matchmaker based in Las Vegas. He promoted Tiger's 1963 title-fight draw with Gene Fullmer and his 1967 kayo of Roger Rouse.



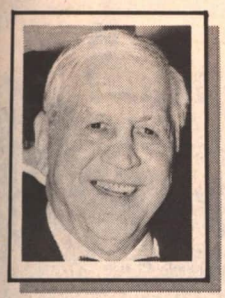
At middleweight, or any other weight, Hearns relied on a savage right cross, landing above vs. Doug DeWitt in October 1986. Hearns won via decision.



Tiger battered Gene Fullmer and won the 160-pound crown for the first time in October 1962. A clever counterpuncher, he frustrated Fullmer throughout.

JOEY GIARDELLO

Tiger was a great fighter. I fought him four times, and I'm not ashamed to have lost to him twice. He was a smart fighter, a counterpuncher, and he didn't get hit as much as people think. He was a strong, strong middleweight. He didn't knock me out, but if he hit you right, you were gone, especially with the left hook. No wild punches, just solid ones. My fights with him were tough. You had to outsmart him. He was a counterpuncher and so was I, and I feinted so I could outcounter him.



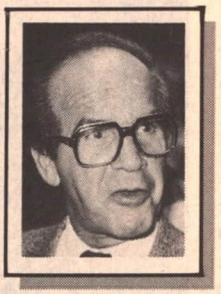
Hearns at middleweight was a very good puncher, but I think the extra weight from welterweight hurt him. I hit Tiger with bombs and I didn't knock him down, so I don't think Hearns could've hurt him. Hearns was a lot taller, but Tiger was used to fighting taller guys. Also, Tiger kept his hands up by his head, which would make it tough for Hearns to hit him.

Hearns would try to bomb, and Tiger would move forward. As a middleweight, I don't think Hearns was strong enough to take a punch, at least not for 15 rounds. I like Tiger by knockout in the 12th or 13th round. Against today's middleweights, he would've cleaned up.

Joey Giardello, a former middleweight champion, split four fights with Dick Tiger. In December 1963, he outpointed Tiger to take the world title. In October 1965, Tiger gained revenge, taking back the crown via decision.

MICKEY DUFF

I was the matchmaker for Tiger's bout against Terry Downes at the Shoreditch Town Hall (in May 1957). Downes was a 10-1 favorite, and Tiger stopped him on a cut. Tiger was paid £60 (then the equivalent of about $170). Both fighters, of course, went on to become world champions. Tiger was a tremendous puncher, with power about equal to Hearns. He was a little on the slow side, but he was a better boxer than given credit for. I'd call him an aggressive counterpuncher who backed you up. He was very strong, and had a better chin than Hearns.



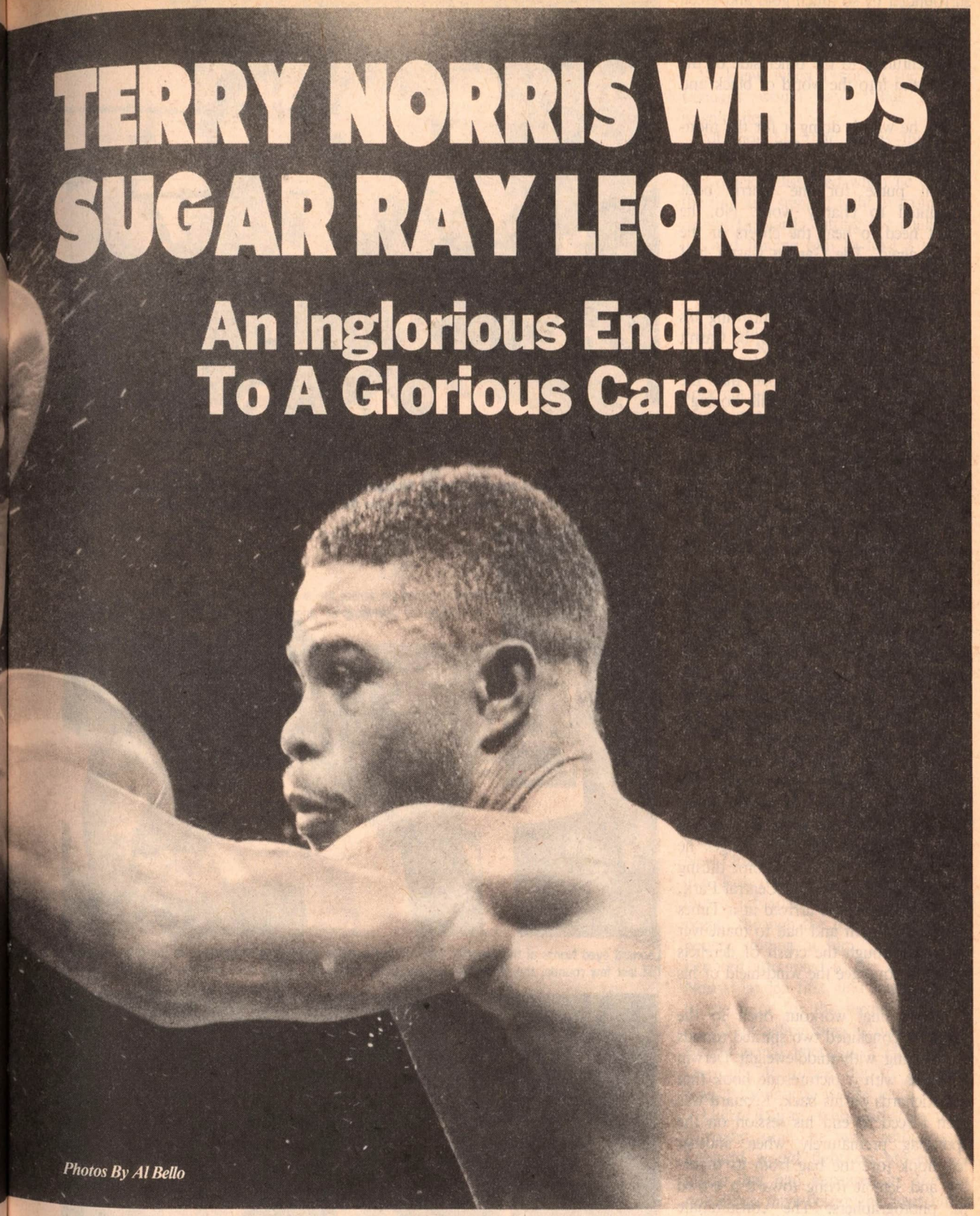
Hearns was already a little past his prime at middleweight. He had a good jab and won some fights with those long arms. But his build was a weakness. Like Mark Breland, but to a lesser extent, he was too tall for his weight. When he moved up, his body strength wasn't sufficient.

Hearns would stick and move and try to walk Tiger into a long right. Tiger would make himself even smaller than he was, work the body, and hook to the head. He would also hold his own boxing with Hearns. Behind on points in the middle of the fight, Tiger would stop Hearns late.

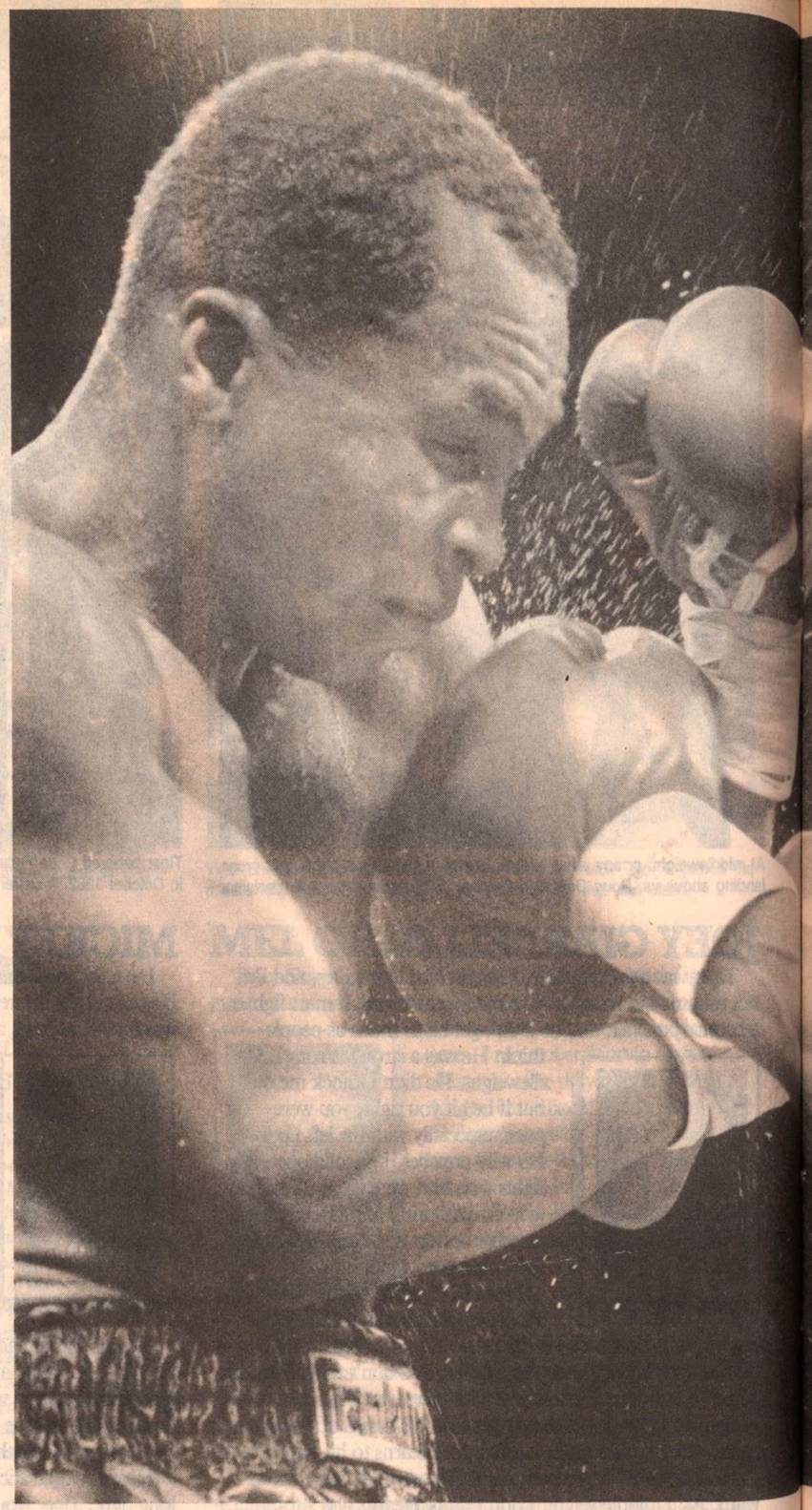
Mickey Duff is a manager and promoter based in England.

TERRY NORRIS WHIPS SUGAR RAY LEONARD

An Inglorious Ending To A Glorious Career



Photos By Al Bello



By Jeff Ryan

In the end, Sugar Ray Leonard should have surveyed the empty seats and the Showtime cameras, gazed way up beyond the Knicks' championship banners toward heaven, and thanked the man in the skybox upstairs that it *did* end like this. In a Madison Square Garden two-thirds empty and on a cable network with one-tenth the penetration of ABC, precious few got to see the saddest of boxing endings, one where a man whose two fists once worked like a chainsaw and a magic wand suddenly looked even more pathetic throwing punches than catching them.

Leonard lunged badly, firing amateurish haymakers he never threw even as an amateur. So desperate was he to find something that worked, he resorted to copying *Vinny Pazienza* by grabbing the top rope with his right hand and propelling himself forward to fire a left. But no matter what he did, Leonard couldn't cut off the ring on the shuffling Father Time, let alone the fleet-footed Terry Norris. The punches launched at Time couldn't graze the old man's beard. The ones aimed at Norris missed by a generation.

Sad as it was, when the tag team of Time and Norris had earned a unanimous decision by the embarrassing scores of 120-104 (no rounds for Leonard), 119-103 (one round for Leonard), and 116-110, there was no cloudburst of tears from the Garden's cheap seats. No, just a rush of air filling the building. Maybe it was the breeze heralding the arrival of Terry Norris' spring of promise and signaling the end of Ray Leonard's winter of discontent. Or, perhaps, it was just everyone's sigh of relief.

"Sure, I'm disappointed," Leonard's manager, Mike Trainer, said in the Garden's mezzanine afterward. "But if it was gonna end, this is the way I wanted it to end. This is the only way it was gonna stop. I thank God it stopped, and that he didn't get hurt. He finished on his feet."

The fans, though, didn't. The 7,495 of them in the Garden, and, presumably, the others watching in the two million homes tuned to Showtime and that network's pay-per-view system, stayed in their seats. As early as the second round, the outcome was that certain. And for the 34-year-old Leonard, the scenery had to be as humbling as the script Norris was writing. Leonard had, after all, drawn more people for his 1982 retirement announcement, played to a bigger TV audience as an amateur, and gotten a larger hand at the Garden while wearing an HBO blazer.

Before every one of his six fights following eye surgery in 1982, Leonard bristled at the suggestion that he could be blinded by his opponent. In the end, however, he had blinded himself. His thrashing on this night had been preordained by his refusal to see the obvious signs of deterioration over the past three years.

Against Norris, Leonard didn't lose it overnight. No, he lost it during the 19 anticlimactic months between his startling upset of Marvin Hagler in 1987 and his sloppy return against Don Lalonde in 1988. Leonard called it an off-night when he had to climb off the floor and salvage a disputed draw with Hearns in '89. He thought he boxed masterfully when he went 12 tedious rounds with a cardboard cutout of Roberto Duran that same year. Always, he discounted the sports pages by telling himself not to believe everything he read. He should have been listening.

But in defeat, at least there was deliverance. The world finally got Sugar Ray's message. In tumbling to Norris, Leonard forever buried the nagging questions, the assumptions of a public that couldn't understand why someone

surrounded by so much gold and green (his career ring earnings are in the exclusive neighborhood of $110-million) kept venturing to the other side of the tracks and into the world of black and blue.

No, he wasn't doing it for the money. Compared to the $27.4-million he earned for his last two fights, the $4-million purse for the Norris bout amounted to charity work. No, he didn't need to hear the cheers of the crowd again. The Garden wasn't half as noisy on fight night as it is when one of the Rangers' tough guys skates to the penalty box after throwing his own bolo punches. And, no, he wasn't doing it because he wanted to prolong a seniors junket and prove that the stars of the '70s were still boxing's marquee champions. To the mainstream, Norris was a nobody.

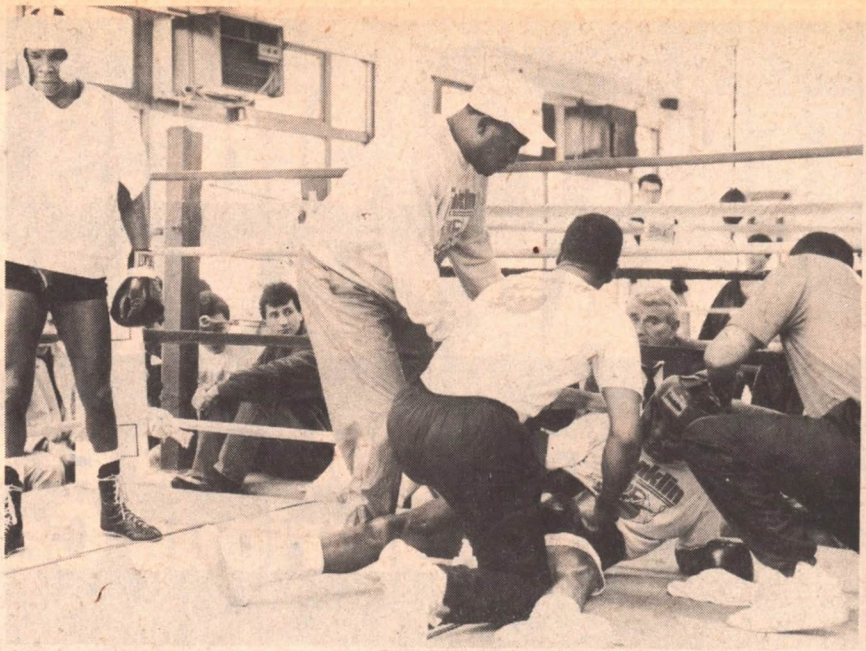
"I kept fighting because I was a risk-taker," he said from behind dark glasses before leaving the Garden. "I had to find out for myself. It had to take something like this to make me move on."

Come to think of it, if Leonard hadn't expected such a beating, maybe he really *had* been reading the papers. Immediately after he selected the 23-year-old WBC super welterweight king as his foe, most experts forecast Leonard's doom, citing the edge he was giving away in age and speed.

But as fight night drew near, most writers had changed their minds and were picking him to win by knockout. Leonard looked so good in training that it appeared the only danger he faced in New York would come during his early-morning jogs in Central Park, or perhaps when he arrived at a Times Square-area gym and had to maneuver his way through the crush of derelicts trying to squeegee the windshield of his limousine.

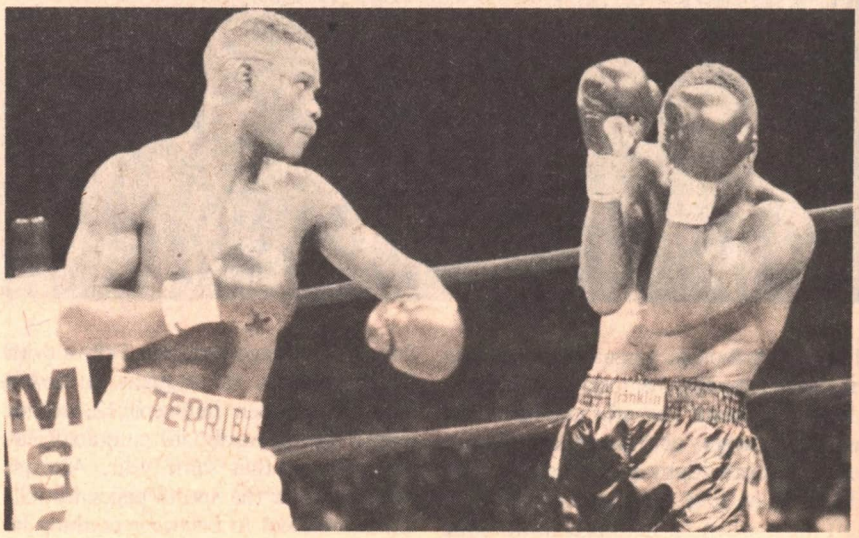
In his final workout open to the press, he concluded two spirited rounds of sparring with middleweight Derwin Richards with a picturesque hook that left Richards on his back. Leonard was then forced to end his session on the speedbag prematurely when another left hook tore the bag from its mooring and sent it flying toward a crowd of photographers. The consummate showman had saved his best workout for the perfect moment. It was to be the last display of timing he would exhibit.

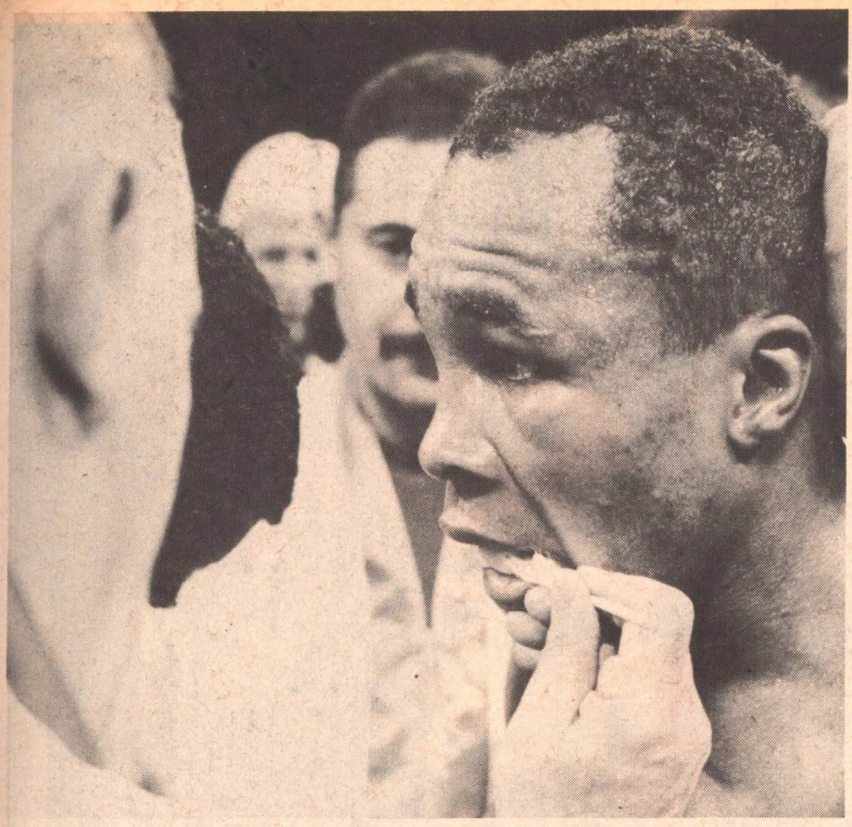
Against Norris, he couldn't have put a combination together if you handed him an instruction manual. The champion repeatedly got his punches off



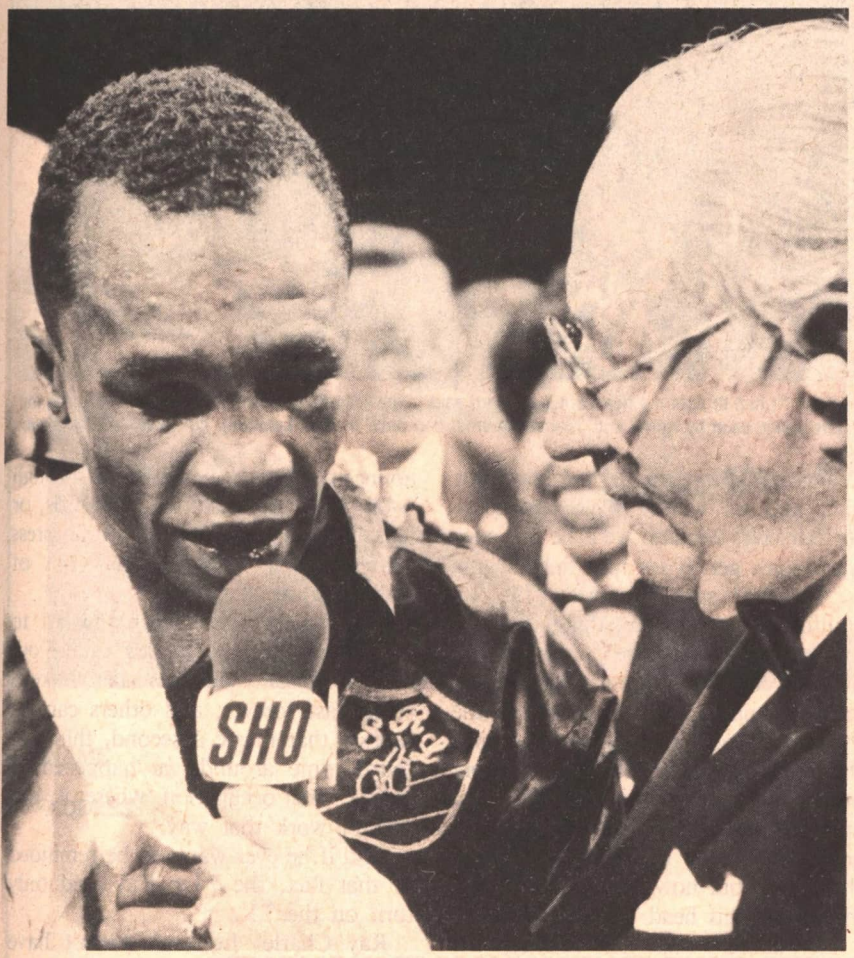
When Leonard dropped sparmate Derwin Richards in his last public workout, he seemed primed for a special effort. Four nights later, however, he was flat and ineffective against Norris.

Leonard eyed Norris at the weigh-in (above), but seemed much less threatening in the ring (below). In the last few rounds, the challenger inched along the ropes, and a confident Norris pounded away.





Exiting the ring with a bruised face and a cut inside his mouth, Leonard looked like a faded warrior. Asked afterward to pick his toughest fight, he answered unhesitatingly, "Terry Norris."



Interviewed by Showtime's Ferdie Pacheco, Leonard reiterated what he had announced to the fans at Madison Square Garden: This was his last fight. Predictably, Sugar Ray's exit came with class.

first, leaving an uncharacteristically tentative Leonard to paw with a soft jab and flinch even when Norris merely faked a counter.

"I knew when I got in the ring," Leonard would say, "that it just wasn't there."

All thoughts that Norris might be intimidated by the idea of facing his idol quickly dissolved when he entered the ring and stepped right in front of a pacing Leonard, cutting the challenger off and forcing him to take a step in the opposite direction. It was a portent of the footwork to come.

Eschewing the movement some predicted would be the focal point of his strategy, Norris initiated the action, catching Leonard with a jolting left uppercut and two rights to the body in round one. Then, in the second, the Texan drove Leonard to the canvas with a sizzling left hook and brazenly hit him with a right when he was down.

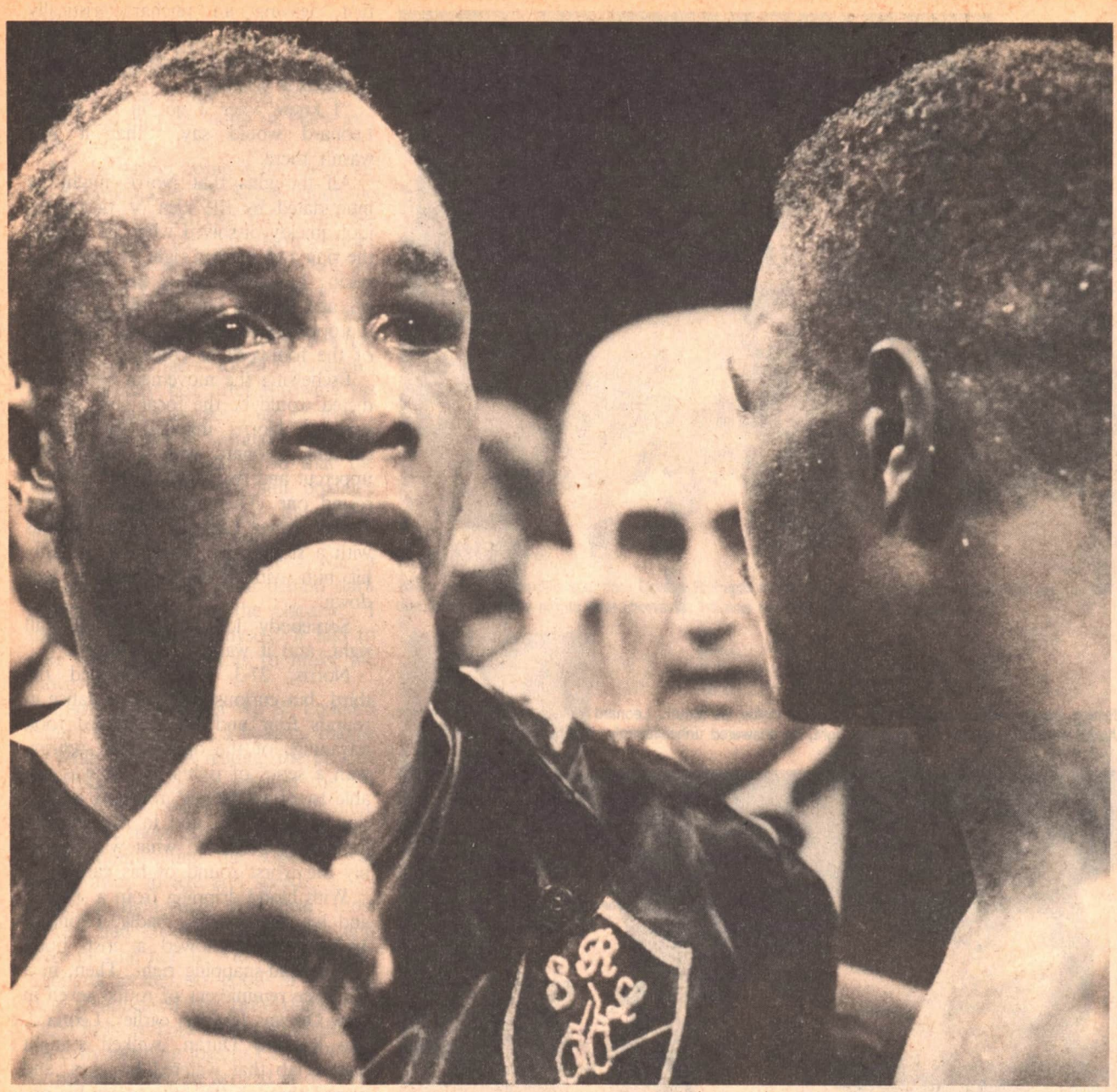
Somebody looked intimidated, all right, and it wasn't Terry Norris.

Norris, 27-3 (14), controlled the third, but curiously elected to dance in rounds four and five. Leonard took advantage of the opportunity, scoring with a series of rights. By he was unable to offset Norris' renewed aggression in the sixth, and in the seventh, Leonard experienced what was probably the worst round of his career.

With blood dripping from a split lip and his face swelling badly, Leonard, 36-2-1 (25), swallowed a crisp hook and a head-snapping right. Then, in a sequence reminiscent of round seven in New Orleans 10 years earlier, Leonard, like Roberto Duran, walked straight into a jab that watered his eyes, and peered through the mist to see his opponent smiling at him. Seconds later, Leonard attempted to fire a right, but Norris' landed first, and Sugar crashed to the floor for the second time.

"I kept telling him, 'C'mon, Ray,' " Norris would later say. "He couldn't keep up. It turned out to be easier than I thought it would be."

Unlike Duran, who said "No mas" a round after he was embarrassed, Leonard would fight on bravely. An article that had appeared in *The National* two days before the bout hinted that Leonard was hoping to lose at this stage of his career, so that he'd have an excuse for leaving the game. Nonsense. He'd fight on when nothing was left but his spirit, willing himself to stand up through 12 rounds, determined to hear his career's final numbers coming from a ring announcer



Norris was the winner, but the moment belonged to the loser. "I had to fight my heart out," Leonard said. "The only thing I wanted to do was finish on my feet." Leonard was floored five times in his last four fights (twice each by Norris and Thomas Hearns, and once by Don Lalonde), but never knocked out.

reading the scorecards, not a referee tolling a 10-count.

And when it was over, Leonard didn't whine like Hagler, offer hollow threats like Duran, or turn into a bitter buffoon like Holmes. He instead patted Norris on the rump, raised the victor's hand in the center of the ring, and then lectured reporters, "Don't put it in your stories that my skills have eroded. *This man* should be commended."

That he should, but when the emotion and good will of the moment were stripped away, the exposed reality was that Leonard lost because he fought on too long, not because Terry Norris is some new Sugar Ray whose talent could be held in check no longer. Leonard told us not to feel sorry for him, and we won't. We'll feel sorry for ourselves because we'll be the ones who won't get to see him fight again.

"Finally," says Leonard, "I'll feel comfortable doing something else."

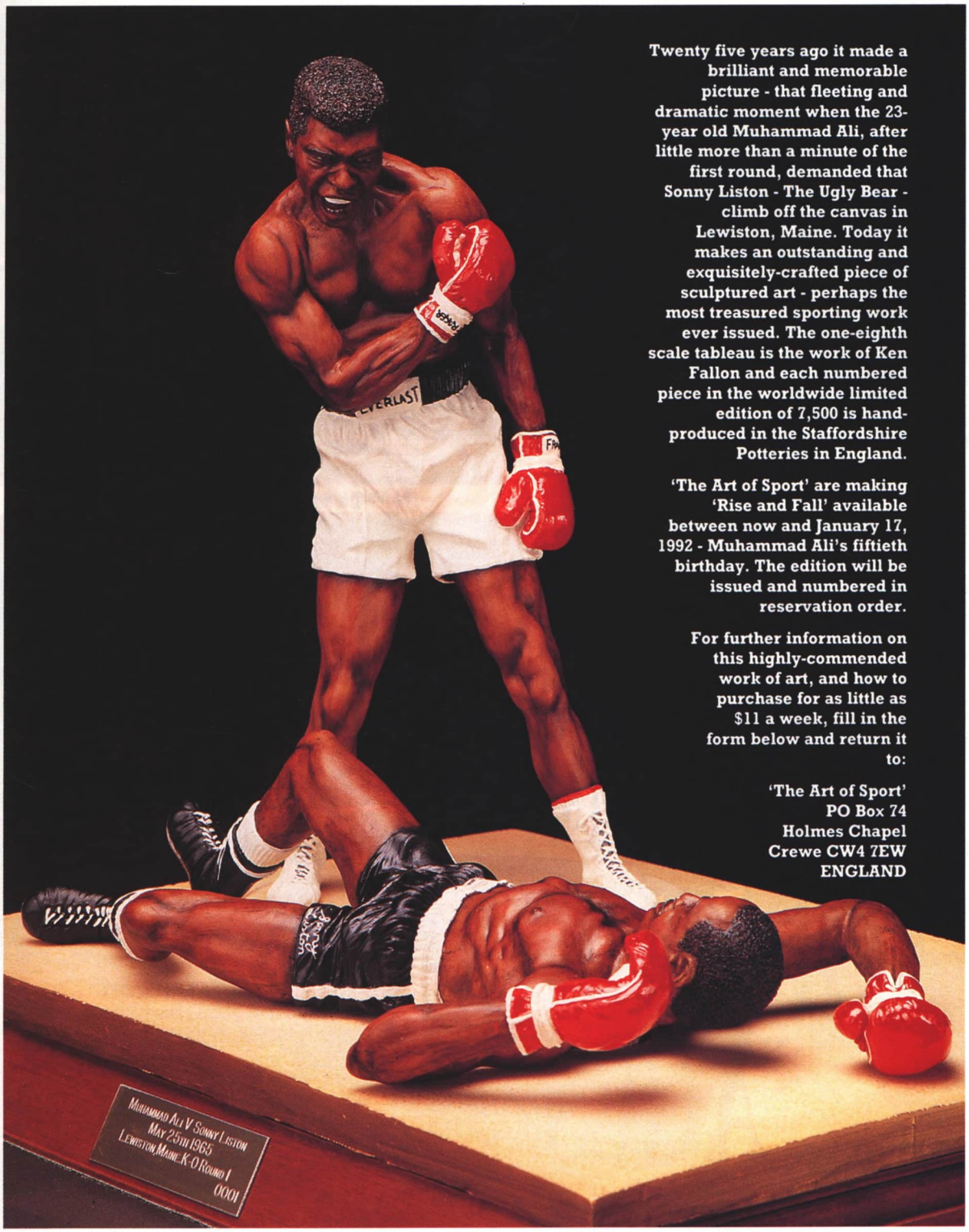
That something else, according to Trainer, could be representing pro athletes. Leonard, who is more in the mood right now to wear out the links than wear the cuff links, says a more immediate course of action will be a long-overdue shaping up of his golf game. He'll see his share of birdies there, too, but now they won't be flying around his head when he's dazed.

No matter what he decides, the fighting is over. He's said so before, but his previous five retirement announcements were never made through swollen lips that distorted his words, or from behind dark glasses, or at press conferences he couldn't walk out of without some assistance.

Leonard may have been the last to find out, but now he *has* found out that while some old men can make a career last forever, and others can recapture that magic a second, third, or fourth time around, *he* happened to choose one occupation where it just doesn't work that way.

And if he ever wants to be reminded of that fact, the 7-Up Kid need only turn on the TV.

Ray Charles Leonard doesn't have the hottest soda commercial on the airwaves these days. Ray Charles does. ■



Twenty five years ago it made a brilliant and memorable picture - that fleeting and dramatic moment when the 23-year old Muhammad Ali, after little more than a minute of the first round, demanded that Sonny Liston - The Ugly Bear - climb off the canvas in Lewiston, Maine. Today it makes an outstanding and exquisitely-crafted piece of sculptured art - perhaps the most treasured sporting work ever issued. The one-eighth scale tableau is the work of Ken Fallon and each numbered piece in the worldwide limited edition of 7,500 is hand-produced in the Staffordshire Potteries in England.

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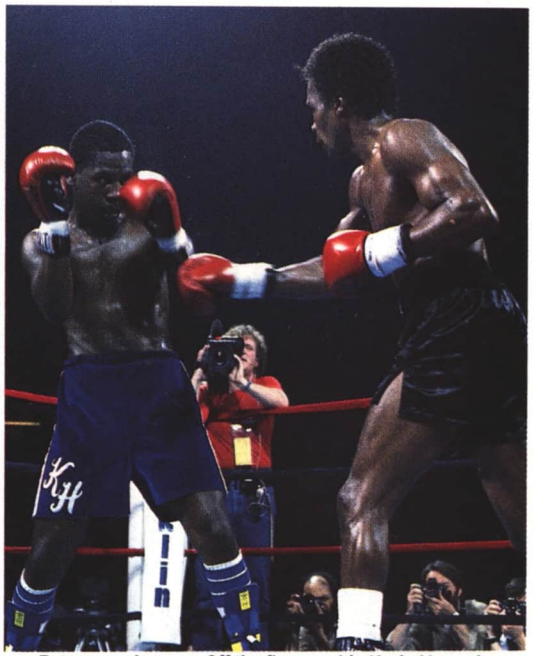
SUGAR RAY LEONARD: A CHAMPION FOR THE AGES

The first title: Wilfred Benitez fell in the 15th

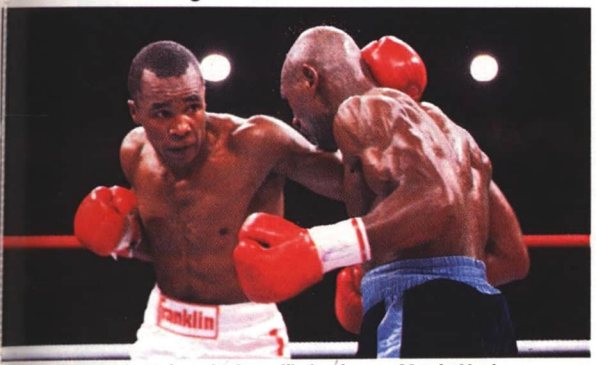
The Brawl In Montreal: A points loss to Roberto Duran

Sweet revenge: Duran says "no mas" in New Orleans

Coming from behind: Thomas Hearns crashed in round 14



Return number one: Off the floor to whip Kevin Howard



The sweetest triumph: An unlikely win over Marvin Hagler

Bigger and better: Don Lalonde lasted nine rounds

Rematch: Hearns scored two knockdowns in earning a draw

Uno Mas: Duran was easy the third time around

The farewell: A one-sided loss to Terry Norris

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The Middleweight Time Has Forgotten

FREDDIE STEELE

"BOXING'S UNKNOWN SOLDIER"

By Phil Guarnieri

It was over and done with before all of the ringsiders settled into their $25 seats. Four crashing knockdowns in the first round and that was it. But there were few complaints, except for the stifling heat. The thermometer on the scoreboard at Seattle's Civic Stadium on that night of July 26, 1938, hovered between 98 and 102 degrees. If you factored in the body heat generated by the 35,000 fight fans, you'd have to figure the thermometer would have registered a smoldering 125.

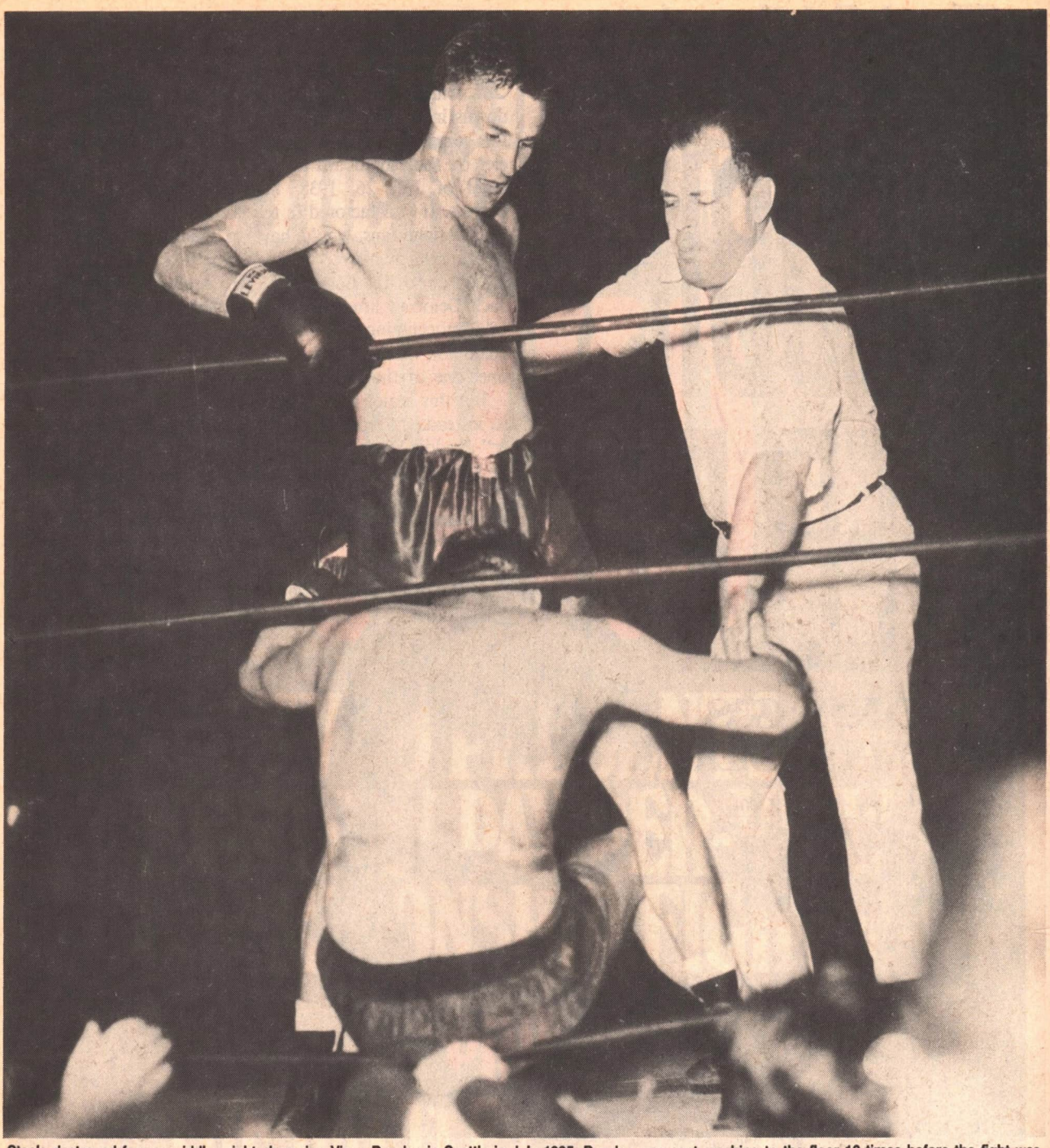
The din of the huge crowd was deafening when referee Jack Dempsey lifted the hand of hometown idol Al Hostak, proclaiming him the winner and new middleweight champion of the world. The elapsed time: 1:43 of round one; one of the shortest title-changing fights of all time.

But this is not a story about the winner, Al Hostak. It is, instead, the story about the loser, Freddie Steele. "Loser" Freddie Steele? To those who saw him fight, it would be sacrilegious to link the words *loser* and *Freddie Steele.* For if ever a prize fighter were scandalously ignored by historians, it is Freddie Steele, who was truly "Boxing's Unknown Soldier."

A half-hour after his coronation, Hostak sat in his dressing room, fielding questions from reporters. He paid homage to Steele. "I wish that I can be as great a champion as Freddie," he said.

Save for his trainers and manager, Steele's dressing room was deserted. Sprawled out on the rubbing table with a white towel covering

Steele appeared as the main figure on the cover of the January 1936 issue of *The Ring* (above). He was featured on five other *Ring* covers. A master boxer, he was also one of the hardest-punching middleweights of all time.



Steele destroyed former middleweight champion Vince Dundee in Seattle in July 1935. Dundee was sent crashing to the floor 10 times before the fight was stopped in the third round. He was rushed to the hospital, where he was treated for a concussion and a fractured jaw, vivid proof of Steele's power.

the lower part of his body, the former champion was crying. Before that harrowing night, Steele had everything going for him. An all-American boy back home in Tacoma, Washington, he had been a high school hero, winning letters in baseball, football, soccer, and swimming. His popularity surpassed even that of another Tacomian, crooner Bing Crosby. But all the 25-year-old ex-champion could mutter between sobs was "I'm finished. I'm finished." And he was.

Today, no one talks of Steele. Few even remember him. On rare occasions, you may come across his photo in an old boxing magazine. It's a shame. After all, Steele fought more middleweight champions (eight) than anyone except Sugar Ray Robinson. He just came along at the wrong time. During Steele's 11-year career, the middleweight division was in shambles, with as many as 10 fighters holding some form of recognition as champion. Steele just got lost in the shuffle. As a result, his greatest bouts are not celebrated in ring folklore, but are buried in attics filled with old magazines gathering dust.

Boxing was Frederick Earle Steele's life. By the age of eight, his ambition was to be a fighter. Every day he would shadowbox in his backyard, imitating his hero, junior lightweight champion Tod Morgan. At 13, Steele began to realize his dream by boxing in neighborhood smokers.

"As soon as I stepped in the ring," he recalled years later, "I knew that I belonged." He was right; he went undefeated in his first 44 fights. Even as an amateur, he had the reputation of a deadly puncher. By the time he

was 18, it was said, "Give Steele six inches and the lights go out."

The smokers were a dangerous training ground for any young hopeful. Unlike most fighters, Steele was lucky that he had a manager, Dave Miller, whom he could trust. Miller ran the local gym where Steele first learned to fight. In fact, it was Miller who first laced on the teenager's gloves. From that day on, they forged one of the closest boxer-manager tandems ever.

As a pair, they looked comical: Steele, the scrawny teenager, and Miller, the burly 300-pound manager. Although Miller was only 12 years older than his fighter, Steele, who had come from a broken home, looked up to him as a father figure.

Under Miller's guidance, Steele developed into one of the most feared welterweights of his era. In 1932, he twice stopped future middlweight king Ceferino Garcia. By 1935, Steele had grown into a middleweight, and among his toughest opponents was San Francisco's Fred Apostoli, a rugged, pigeon-toed brawler.

In their April 1935 bout in San Francisco, Apostoli started out quickly in his characteristic roughhouse style, only to be outgunned by the heavier-hitting Steele. In the 10th round, Apostoli was repeatedly punched to the canvas before the referee mercifully intervened. After the victory, Steele aimed for the world title.

Four months later, he broke the jaw of former 160-pound titlist Vince Dundee and dropped him 11 times—by the third round! Dundee had to be hospitalized and was never the same. More than 40 years later, Steele shuddered at the memory of the fight.

"The last blow that I knocked Dundee down with was a right to the jaw," he said. "I heard the bone crack. It nauseated me. I'm glad the referee stopped it."

After the Dundee fight, Steele couldn't be ignored. Seven consecutive wins followed, and his date with champion Babe Risko was sealed. But Risko was in no hurry to put his title on the line, and he held out for a non-title fight. Steele would have to win to secure a title shot.

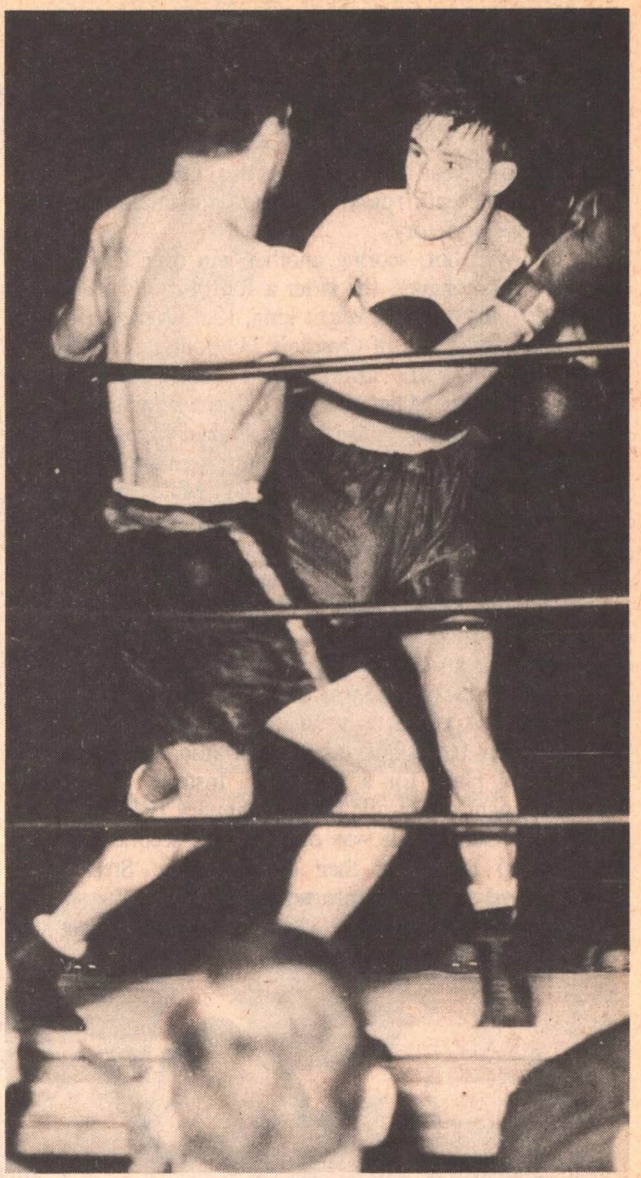
In March 1936, Steele boxed smartly and outclassed Risko. He dropped the champion in the second round and won a 10-round unanimous decision. Four months later, he outpointed Risko over 15 rounds to win the New York State and NBA versions of the title. For Steele and Miller, their dream had come true.

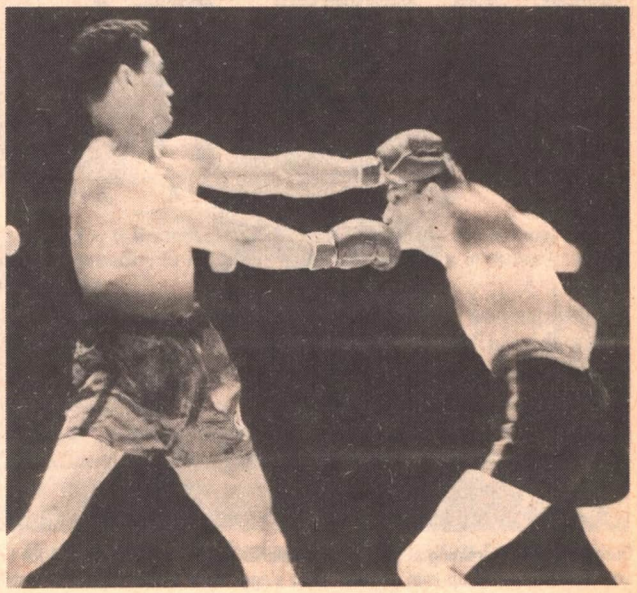
During his 10-year quest for the title, Steele had endured a fractured jaw, two serious kidney ailments, and a terrible automobile accident that nearly took his life. Only his inner toughness, and Miller's constant encouragement, enabled him to endure.

"I knew Steele and Miller fairly well," said legendary trainer Ray Arcel, boxing's elder statesman. "I even trained Freddie for the Bob Turner fight up in Rochester. Those two jelled together. They were two of the nicest guys you'd ever meet.

"Steele was a terrific fighter. He could punch like hell. But no one remembers him because he avoided the East Coast like the plague. It's sad, really."

Following his title-winning effort, Steele won three non-title fights, including a second-round kayo of future light heavyweight king Gus Lesnevich. Former welterweight and middleweight champion Mickey Walker was so impressed that he called Steele the greatest short puncher he'd ever seen. And, finally, Steele was recognized by the Eastern sporting press as the best middleweight in the





Steele unleashes a savage attack against middleweight champion Babe Risko in Seattle in March 1936 (below). He won the decision in a non-title bout and won the crown from Risko four months later. Steele charges at Risko in their third bout (above), in February 1937. Steele, among the most underrated middleweight champions in history, retained the crown.

world. The recognition was overdue.

He made his first title defense on New Years Day, 1937, against colorful and clever William "Gorilla" Jones. Steele was weary of Jones; they had fought to a 10-round draw in 1934, and Steele had outpointed the former champion one year later. But in this fight, he floored Jones in the seventh round en route to a unanimous 10-round decision victory.

Steele stayed hot, scoring another win over Risko and two title-defense kayos, the latter a fourth-round stoppage of another future middleweight king, Ken Overlin. (It was the only stoppage loss of Overlin's 149-bout career.) But a few weeks before the Overlin fight, Steele suffered his biggest loss when Miller died of a heart attack.

He was devastated. Miller, only 37, had been with him from the beginning, making Steele into a champion and a man. Their bond was so special that Miller once said, "Freddie Steele is the last fighter I'll ever manage. But as long as he's in the ring, I'll be his manager."

The tragedy marked the beginning of the end of a brilliant career. Eddie Miller, Dave's brother, took over as manager and tried to ease the fighter's pain. But it became evident that Steele had lost his edge.

Meanwhile, the public was clamoring for a unification bout against Apostoli, who had won the International Boxing Union 160-pound crown. But disagreements over purses killed plans for a title fight. Instead, Steele and Apostoli fought a non-title bout in January 1938 at Madison Square Garden. (It was only Steele's second fight in New York.) Based on their first meeting, Steele was tabbed a 14-5 favorite. Unfortunately for him, he wasn't fighting an oddsmaker, but an enraged brawler bent on revenge.

From the opening bell the pace was furious. They stood in mid-ring, swapping gut-bruising punches with savage intensity. Steele's blows shook Apostoli, and a vicious right nearly floored him in the second round. But the Italian bomber was a wildly determined fighter, and he raged back at the champion he called "the toughest fighter I ever met."

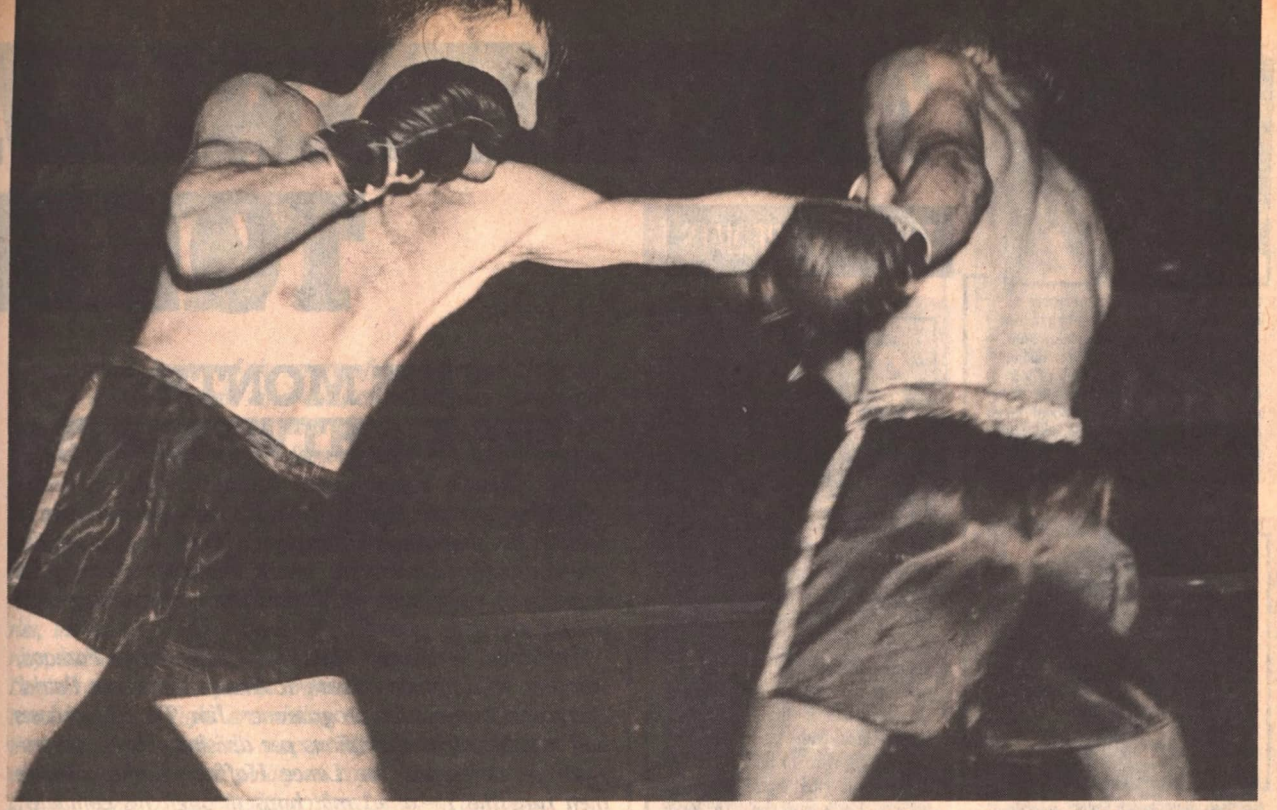
By the eighth round, Steele had taken an awful beating. Bleeding and exhausted, he refused to quit. Referee Arthur Donovan had no choice but to call a halt to the brutal contest 54 seconds into the ninth round.

Six weeks later, Steele, still the titleholder, defended the crown with a seventh-round kayo over Carmen Barth. Then he beat yet another future titlist, Solly Krieger. The Hostak disaster came one month later. The day after that crushing defeat, Steele announced his retirement. Nearly three years later, he would give boxing another try, but would be knocked out in five rounds by Jimmy Casino. It hardly mattered. For all intent and purposes, the Hostak debacle had ended his career.

In retirement, life had a new meaning for Steele and his new wife, Helen. They started a family and raised four children. Steele tried acting and used his friendship with Crosby to land tough-guy roles in Hollywood. He appeared in such movies as *Hail The Conquering Hero* and *G.I. Joe,* and doubled for Errol Flynn during the boxing scenes in *Gentleman Jim.*

Following his stint in Hollywood, he became a longshoreman and took on other jobs, until 1960, when he and Helen opened a restaurant in Westport, Washington, called "Freddie Steele's." The new business invigorated Steele. Greeting customers came as naturally as throwing left hooks.

During a break in training at New York's Stillman's Gym while preparing for his 1937 title defense against Babe Risko, Steele (right) and lightweight champion Lou Ambers ham it up with popular radio singer Rose Marie. Steele almost never fought on the East Coast and rarely received the attention of the media.



Steele made his first defense in Milwaukee on New Year's Day, 1937, against one of the most feared middleweights of his time, William "Gorilla" Jones. The photo shows Steele knocking Jones off-balance with his stunning and deadly accurate jab in round four. Steele retained the crown via 10-round decision.

"Oh, he really loved it," recalled Helen, who still runs the business. "He had an ability to make people feel comfortable. Sometimes an old Hollywood buddy would show up at the restaurant and they'd have a ball recalling old times."

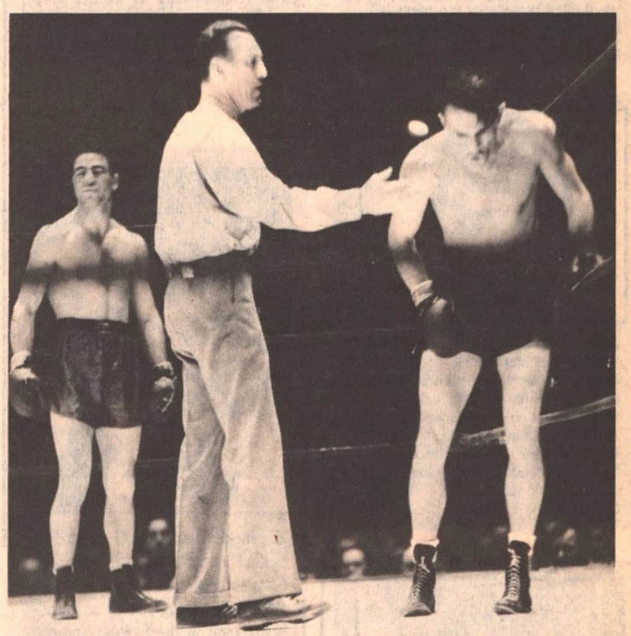
Steele's youngest daughter, Kathryn, can remember the thrill of answering the phone in their Westport home and hearing the booming voice of John Wayne. " 'The Duke' really loved Dad," she said. "Whenever he was near Westport, he would invite Dad on his yacht to go fishing.

"My father was a wonderful man. You would never think he was a fighter. He was so kind and gentle. Once in a while, a fan outside of Tacoma would remember him, and that would really please my father. But he never got the recognition he deserved.

"I don't know if this bothered him. He was not the type to complain or boast about himself. But I think deep down it must have hurt. But he never spoke about his boxing days. I couldn't tell you much about them, except for Dave Miller. My father spoke with real emotion about him. Miller died 20 years before I was born, but he was very much alive to me."

Life went well for the ex-champion until November 1980, when he suffered a heart attack. Further complications deprived him of mobility, and he spent his last four years in a nursing home. Steele died on August 23, 1984, at age 71.

The news of his passing was virtually ignored by the major media. *The New York Times* ran a small obituary. No boxing publication recounted his career in words or photos. Even the *Seattle Times,* the major newspaper in his home state, relegated him to the last page of its sports section, featuring just one pose photo. These were disappointing tributes for a champion who was one of the most dangerous fighters of his era.



While clinging to the ropes, Steele tells Arthur Donovan that he can't continue, thus conceding to Fred Apostoli during their battle in January 1938.

As Steele would have wished, his funeral was a private affair, attended only by family members, and he was laid to rest in an undisclosed cemetery. In the quiet lushness of wide-open fields is a simple headstone that offers the basics of one man's life: date of birth, date of death, and "Middleweight Champion of the World." Missing is the most fitting epitaph of all: "Here lies, known but to a few, 'Boxing's Unknown Soldier.' " ■

Phil Guarnieri is a freelance writer based in Hempstead, New York.

THE RING ALL-TIME COMPUTER TOURNAMENT

THIS MONTH: THE LIGHTWEIGHTS

Boxing fans are forever debating the relative merits of the greatest champions in history. While ***The Ring****'s exclusive computer tournaments aren't intended to answer all arguments, we're sure you'll find them entertaining—and as realistic as is possible.*

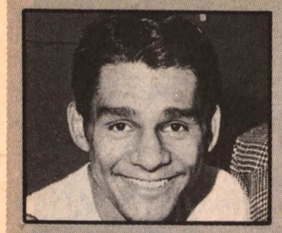
The idea is simple: Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood, working in conjunction with tournament adviser Patrick Premo and computer programmer Jim Trunzo, chooses and matches eight champions per division. Using the program he developed for Lance Haffner Games, Trunzo then runs the 15-round matchups through his computer.

Lance Haffner's TKO Professional Boxing Game is a computer simulation of the sport of boxing. The program runs in compiled basic and consists of several thousand lines of code. More than two dozen routines and subroutines cross-check such factors as ring position, the fighters' physical condition, accumulated damage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, that is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are constantly monitored during a given fight.

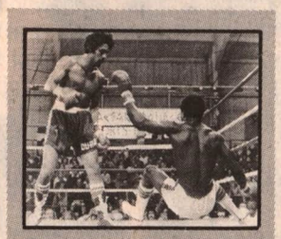
The fighters have been rated in more than 30 categories, including obvious ones, like defense, punching accuracy, strength of chin, hitting power, and ring generalship. Less obvious, but equally important areas, that are factored into each fight are ability to take punishment over the course of a fight, susceptibility to cuts, ability to counterpunch, relative ability to cope with different styles, and the level of competition faced during a career.

The rest is up to your imagination.

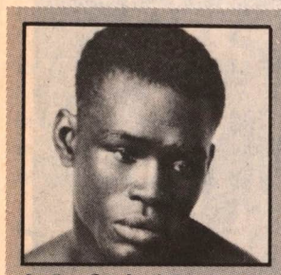
THE QUARTERFINALS



Roberto Duran: One of the greats in history was at his best at 135 pounds . . . Combined underrated boxing skills with "Hands of Stone" . . . Won title in June 1972 via 13th-round kayo of Ken Buchanan . . . Made 12 successful defenses before vacating . . . Moved up and captured titles at 147, 154, and 160 pounds . . . Remains active . . . Record: 85-8 (60).

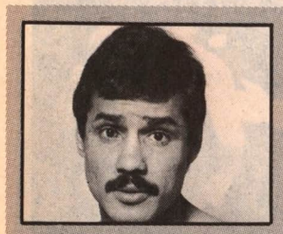


Duran-Gans: Gans begins with movement, but surprises Duran by dropping him with a cross in round two. The knockdown serves as a wakeup call, and Duran pounds the body. Duran suffers a cut over the right eye in the fifth. He accelerates in the eighth and floors Gans with hooks to the body and a right to the jaw. Duran begins to bleed from under the left eye. He rests in the 10th, but staggers Gans in the 11th and scores a knockdown in the 12th. Gans rises, but Duran is relentless. The referee steps in at the 2:42 mark with Gans ahead on two cards. **Duran by 12th-round TKO.**



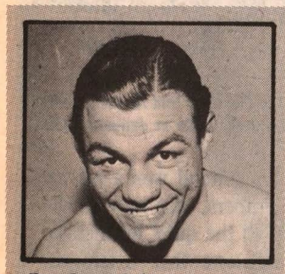
Joe Gans: Born Joseph Gaines . . . Arguably the best fighter before 1900 . . . A master boxer with excellent power . . . Was stopped by Frank Erne in first title try, but stopped Erne in one round in May 1902 to capture crown . . . Retained title 13 times over two reigns . . . Died at age 35, 17 months after last bout . . . Record: 131-9-16 (85).

THE SEMIFINALS



Alexis Arguello: Triple-crown titlist made a brief stop at 135 pounds . . . Maintained power that had made him a champion at feather and junior lightweight . . . Won WBC crown in June 1981 via decision over Jim Watt . . . Retained crown four times before moving to 140 pounds . . . Never lost a bout as a defending titlist (16-0) . . . Record: 80-6 (65).

Arguello-Canzoneri: There is mutual respect, but by the third, Canzoneri is working on the inside. After being staggered by a roundhouse right in the fourth, Arguello scores a flash knockdown with a hook. Canzoneri keeps applying pressure, but Arguello lands the harder blows. Canzoneri is cut over the right eye in the ninth. Arguello jabs well in the 11th and again drops his foe in the 12th. Tireless, Canzoneri hammers away over the final two rounds. A right floors an exhausted Arguello late in the 15th. The scoring: 144-143 (twice) and 144-142. **Canzoneri by unanimous decision.**



Tony Canzoneri: Among most popular champions ever . . . Only 5'5", and had to absorb lots of punishment . . . Won titles at feather, light, and junior welter . . . First won 135-pound title via first-round kayo of Al Singer in 1930 . . . Defeated, among others, Jackie Berg, Billy Petrolle, Jimmy McLarnin, and Lou Ambers . . . Record: 141-24-10 (44).

THE FINAL

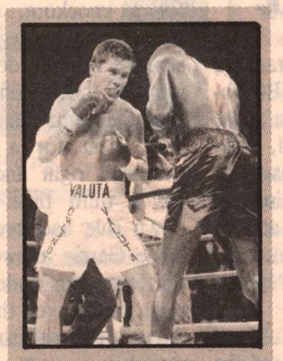
Duran-Canzoneri: Canzoneri starts quickly, and Duran's early-round woes continue. A short right explodes off his chin in round one and drives him to the canvas. Duran rises and immediately adopts an aggressive approach. He wants punching room, but Canzoneri keeps chugging in close. Duran hurts his foe in the seventh, and after a prolongued beating, the referee considers stopping the fight. But Canzoneri answers just in time by landing three straight shots. He defends himself well in the eighth, but by the 10th, his right eye is swollen shut. He continues to move forward, and Duran punches sharply. A combo drops Canzoneri in the 11th, and a right buckles his knees in the 12th. Canzoneri is bleeding badly, and Duran never stops punching. The referee intervenes at the 2:15 mark, with Duran ahead on all three cards. **Duran by 12th-round TKO.**

THE FINAL

Duran-Leonard: Duran surprises the experts by opening cautiously, and lands only one punch at a time. Leonard is content to keep Duran at a distance and clinch whenever necessary. The pace picks up in the sixth, when Leonard willingly trades. His punches are sharp, but Duran is clearly the more powerful hitter. Leonard is hurt early in the seventh, but Duran still can't put his punches together. From the eighth to the 11th, Leonard controls the tempo and lands two punches to one. But the ever-aggressive Duran breaks through in the 12th with several combinations. Duran punches to the body in the 13th and is warned for hitting low. In the 14th, he holds and hits and then cuts Leonard over the left eye with a jab. The Panamanian refuses to decelerate in the 15th, and a counter right over Leonard's jab turns out to be the fight's best blow. Duran takes the round by two points, and it makes all the difference. The scoring: 143-142 (twice) and 142-142. **Duran is the winner and champion by majority decision.**

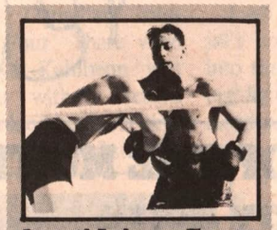
THE SEMIFINALS

Leonard-Chavez: Though both miss often at the start, it quickly becomes evident that Chavez has never faced a lightweight with the myriad skills of Leonard. In round three, Chavez misses *90 percent* of his punches. Leonard, on the other hand, is quite accurate, scoring from a distance and clinching when Chavez gets close. Chavez suffers a cut right eye and lip in the middle rounds, and Leonard threatens to score a near-shutout. But the fight turns late in the ninth, when Chavez bangs the body, then switches upstairs and drops Leonard with an overhand right. Welcoming a brawl, an inspired Leonard initiates toe-to-toe action in the 10th and outspeeds the Mexican. The 11th and 12th are slow rounds, and in the 14th and 15th, Leonard circles the ring, confident of victory. The scoring: 145-140, 144-141, and 145-142. **Leonard by unanimous decision.**



Williams-Chavez: Those expecting a shootout aren't disappointed. Williams starts fast and scores often with jabs and hooks. Chavez concentrates on the body with hooks. They go toe to toe in the sixth, and Williams enjoys an edge. But Chavez rebounds in the ninth and scores a knockdown with a right just before the bell. Another right early in the 11th produces knockdown number two, and Williams barely beats the count. An uppercut-hook combination floors him for a third time, and he is counted out at the 1:12 mark, with Chavez ahead on two cards. **Chavez by 11th-round kayo.**

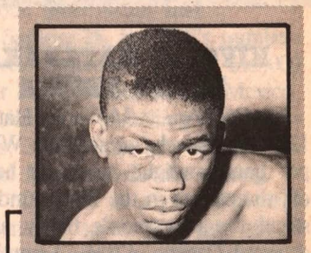
THE QUARTERFINALS



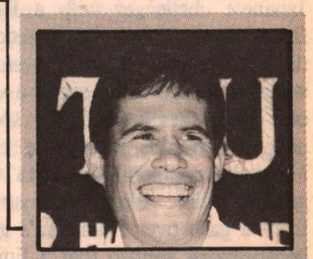
Leonard-Ambers: The two master boxers probe cautiously, and in the third, the fans scream for more action. Both show lots of jabs. There is not a significant punch until the eighth, when Leonard lands an overhand right to the jaw. Later in the round, Ambers answers with a left uppercut that knocks Leonard off-balance. Leonard opens up in the 11th and is aggressive the rest of the way. He has success with his hook, hurting Ambers in the 11th and the 14th. They brawl in the 15th, and Leonard rarely misses. The scoring: 146-141 (twice) and 146-143. **Leonard by unanimous decision.**

Benny Leonard: Was revered in his era as boxing's best . . . A master boxer and puncher, and brilliant tactician . . . Won crown by stopping Freddie Welsh in nine rounds in May 1917 . . . Retained title five times, but failed in effort to win welter title vs. Jack Britton . . . Retired in 1925, and came back six years later . . . Record: 180-21-6 (69).

Lou Ambers: Born Luigi Guiseppe D'Ambrosio . . . A clever boxer and defensive genius . . . Defeated, among others, Tony Canzoneri, Pancho Villa, Henry Armstrong, and Fritzie Zivic . . . Won title by outpointing Canzoneri in September 1936 . . . Made two defenses, then lost to Armstrong and regained crown by winning rematch . . . Record: 86-8-6 (27).



Ike Williams: Possessed one of the most feared crosses in history . . . Fought 70 times before securing title shot . . . Stopped Juan Zurita in April 1945 via second-round kayo to capture NBA crown . . . Won unified title with sixth-round stoppage of Bob Montgomery in August 1947 . . . Made combined eight defenses . . . Record: 123-25-5 (60).



Julio Cesar Chavez: Has been dominant in three divisions and is currently regarded as boxing's best fighter . . . Now holds WBC and IBF junior welter titles . . . Utilized crunching hook and constant pressure to dethrone WBA 135-pound king Edwin Rosario via 11th-round TKO in November 1987 . . . Made two defenses before vacating . . . Record: 73-0 (63).

NEXT MONTH: JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH: Terry Norris

Lost in the wake of the retirement of Sugar Ray Leonard was the effort put forth by WBC super welterweight champion Norris. Overcautious in many of his early bouts, and kamikaze-like in title-fight shootouts vs. Julian Jackson and John Mugabi, Norris got it just right on February 9.

Quicker and stronger than Sugar Ray, the champion outjabbed Leonard, utilized the entire ring, and, when opting to trade combinations, managed to land the last punch. He was just as effective after the fight, briefly meeting the press and then exiting so that Leonard could say goodbye. It could have been an awkward moment, but Norris handled it with class, managing to relinquish the spotlight on the biggest night of his life without cheapening his victory.

KIYOSHI HATANAKA-PEDRO DECIMA

NAGOYA, JAPAN—Hatanaka, 122, impressively wrested the WBC super bantamweight crown as he came off the canvas in the first round, withstood the champion's heavy assaults, dropped Decima, 121½, Argentina, on six occasions, and stopped him at 3:00 of the eighth round in a scheduled 12-rounder before 8,500 fans at Nagoya International Exhibition Hall.

Decima, 26, proved a skillful and powerful champion, as he dropped the Japanese challenger with a light but fast one-two in the closing seconds of the first round. Hatanaka seemed bewildered by Decima's speed and power. The Argentine brawler took the next two rounds with great ease, as Hatanaka couldn't cope with the aggressive titlist. Blood was streaming from a gash over Hatanaka's left eyebrow, and it seemed that a finish was imminent.

But in round four, Hatanaka landed a long right to the chin that had the champion staggering badly. He followed up with lefts and rights, and Decima hit the deck. The fans cried for a knockout. Hatanaka swarmed over the rubber-legged champion, and again sent him down with a vicious right-left hook combo. Decima barely beat the count, and Hatanaka desperately went for a kill, exploding an overhand right and dropping Decima for a third time. (The three-knockdown rule had been waived). Referee Lupe Garcia allowed Decima to fight on. Hatanaka landed another overhand right and decked the champion for the fourth time with six seconds left in the round.

In the next round, the tide almost turned back. Hatanaka was nervous, aiming for a kayo win, and Decima outpunched him with jabs and one-twos. Decima was still strong enough to win the sixth round as well. He almost overwhelmed the less experienced challenger with a barrage of punches. The champion had regained his strength and tried to finish his work.

The tide, however, turned once more. Midway through the seventh, Hatanaka's stinging jab caught the face of the brave Argentine, who lost his balance and fell on the seat of his trunks. Incredibly, Decima fought back and exchanged hot rallies.

Entering the eighth round, it seemed a battle either fighter could win. The determined Decima attempted to outjab and overpower Hatanaka, but his vaunted power had faded. At 2:46 of the round, Hatanaka landed another strong jab to the face and down went the champion. The referee issued a mandatory count and then asked the Argentine whether or not he wanted to continue. Decima raised his gloves to his chest, but his response was slow enough to show the damage he had absorbed. Garcia didn't hesitate to declare a halt.

Hatanaka jumped and rolled over on the canvas like a gymnast. The fans roared for the first world champion born in Nagoya, and gave Hatanaka a standing ovation. Koji Matsuda, the promoter/manager of Hatanaka, held the winner and burst into tears in the center of the ring. It was an emotional scene.

"I am very happy," Hatanaka said. "Decima was as strong and hard-punching as I expected. But I endured his heavy attacks and waited for his fatigue. I did it!" Hatanaka raised to 22-1-1 (15). Decima fell to 26-3 (18).

The scoring after the seventh round: Bruce McTavish (New Zealand), 65-63, and Richard Murry (USA), 65-64, both for the challenger, and Chuck Giampa (USA), 65-64 for the champion.

In a supporting eight, Toshikazu Suzuki, the JBC's third-ranked junior lightweight, 139½, knocked out Tatsuya Toda, 130, at 2:57 of the second session.

Eagle Sasawaki, 137¾, disposed of Hiroyuki Takeda, 137½, at 2:29 of the third round in the first eight. (2-3-91)

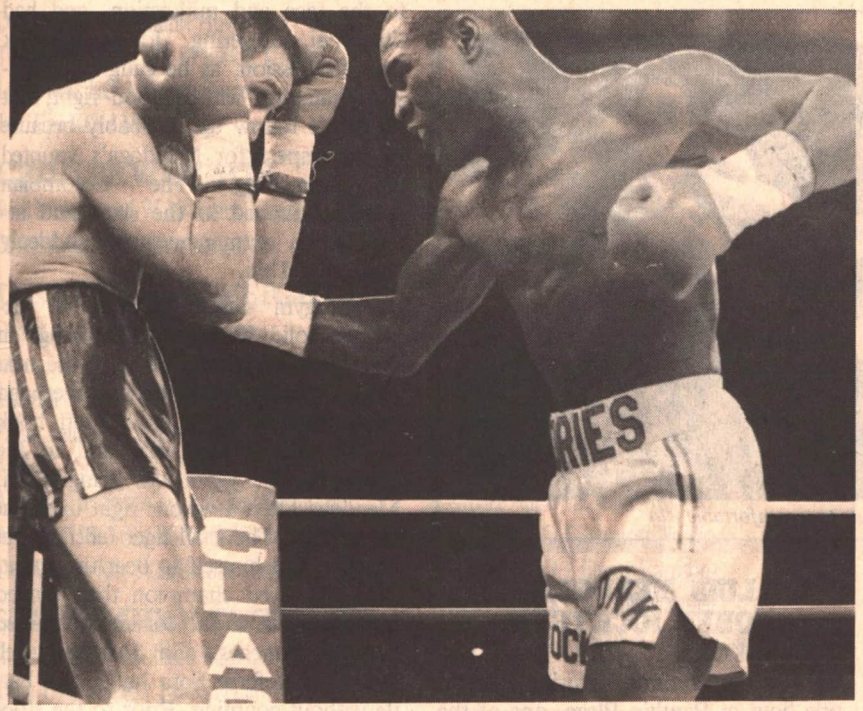
Joe Koizumi

DENNIS ANDRIES-GUY WATERS

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA—Englishman Andries, 174¾, based in De-

troit, retained the WBC light heavyweight title with a unanimous decision over Australian (born in England) Waters, 173¼, at Memorial Drive Tennis Courts. Scores: 116-112 (Sheila Harmon), 117-113 (Davey Pearl), and 115-114 (Chuck Williams). The judges were very lenient to Waters. *The Ring* gave him only two rounds.

Jeff Fenech, a former world champion in three divisions, helped train Waters for this fight. He twice jumped onto the ring apron and sternly told Waters to do more. Those instructions came at the end of rounds eight and 10. Perhaps not coincidentally, rounds nine and 11 were the only stanzas taken by Waters.



Andries' strength and aggressiveness troubled Waters

Waters fought a safety-first fight. He has a tight defense, but he clinched often, and referee Richard Steele ordered break after break. In 36 minutes of action, there were 74 clinch-breaks!

Amazingly, one of the two fight-callers on Sky Channel TV, Grantlee Kieza, scored Waters the winner of seven rounds, with two even. That translates to a score of 117-113 in favor of Waters.

"If I had my chance over again, I'd do it differently," Waters said. "I did not go hard enough in the early stages."

"Waters suffered from distinct lack of confidence," offered Emanuel Steward, the manager of Andries.

Andries is 39-8-2 (24); Waters 13-2-1.

Bill Mordey's Classic Promotions promoted the program and drew an almost-capacity crowd of more than 8,000.

In main support, billed for 10 threes, Fenech made a comeback after 14 months to halt Canadian John Kahlbenn in round four. There were no knockdowns, but Kahlbenn was copping punishment without return when referee Jim Boland rescued him. Fenech scaled 133¼, his heaviest ever; Kahlbenn 134½. Fenech is 25-0 (19). He is next scheduled to tackle Azumah Nelson in an effort to win his fourth world title.

Australian junior welterweight champion Shane Riley met former national junior welterweight champion Pat Leglise over eight rounds. It ended in round two. Riley pulled Leglise sideways, and with Leglise bent over, hit him on the back of the head with a right. Leglise rose from the canvas, holding the back of his head. After conversing with the victim, referee Tom Ferrauto crowned Riley the winner! Riley, 14-1, should have been disqualified. Leglise is 32-9-1.

In an eight, Chris Nicolaou, 172¼, halted Peter Gillespie, 171¾, in round eight. Nicolaou was in charge throughout. He dropped Gillespie in rounds six and seven.

In another eight, Kevin Barry, 242½, outpointed Niko Degei, 264½, by unanimous decision.
(1-19-91)

Ray Mitchell

MICHAEL CARBAJAL-MACARIO SANTOS

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA—Carbajal's crunching left hook one minute into the second round was the stuff of highlight films. The head of Santos, Acapulco, Mexico, twice caromed off the canvas at the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion. The end was so conclusive that referee Richard Steele had time to look up and remind Carbajal to stay in a neutral corner while counting to 10. The time of the kayo was 1:09.

A partisan crowd of 2,067 saw "Little Hands of Stone" register his sixth straight kayo while improving to 19-0 (12). Carbajal, 108, scaled one pound more than Santos. Carbajal earned $100,000 for his second defense of the IBF light flyweight crown.

"We are about ready to make the claim that, pound-for-pound, Michael Carbajal is the best fighter in the world today," promoter Bob Arum said.

Santos, 25, the IBF's number-seven contender, earned $15,000 for his first bout outside Mexico.

After the crunching kayo, Santos, 27-2-1 (12), let manager Rafael Mendoza do the talking.

"Carbajal is a great fighter," Mendoza said. "My guy didn't see the punch at all."

Carbajal won the first round, during which the mobile Santos circled to his left and occasionally fired to the champion's body. In the second, Carbajal scored with two big rights, the first an uppercut, the second a cross, before striking with the kayo blow.

The judges were Chuck Giampa, Glen Hamada, and Lou Moret.

Arum indicated a Carbajal showdown with Humberto Gonzales is still a possibility, should the Mexican regain the WBC 108-pound crown from Rolando Pascua in June.
(2-17-91)

Jack Welsh

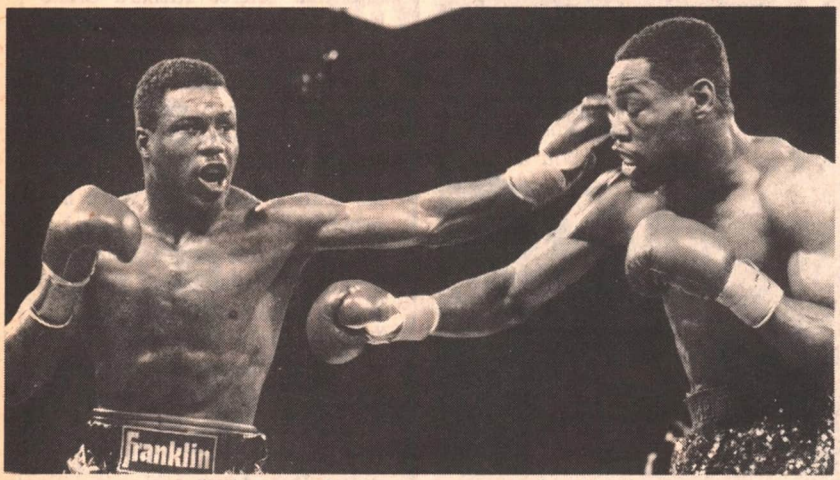
MELDRICK TAYLOR-AARON DAVIS

ATLANTIC CITY—Less than an hour before fight time, Larry Davis, the father and co-manager of WBA

welterweight champion "Superman" Davis, stood and watched as George Benton taped Taylor's hands in the challenger's crowded dressing room. At the completion of Benton's meticulous work, Davis offered luck all around and prepared to return to his son's side.

"Take care, champ," Davis said to Taylor. A split second later he realized his error, but a fighter like Taylor instinctively capitalizes on such mistakes.

"There you go, you said it; you said *champ,*" screamed Taylor, his smile growing by the word.



Taylor spears Davis en route to a comfortable win

Davis dismissed Taylor with a playful shrug. A couple of hours later they met again, at the postfight press conference. This time, Davis called Taylor champ because he had to.

Proving he had lost nothing but a fight during his 36 minutes (minus two seconds) vs. Julio Cesar Chavez, Taylor scored a unanimous 12-round decision at the Convention Center. Vinnie Rainone and Phil Newman scored 116-111, and Frank Cairo 115-112. *The Ring* had Taylor ahead, 117-110.

Taylor, 145, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania, 26-1-1 (14), opened with a spirited body attack—though referee Arthur Mercante penalized him for punching low in round two—and after the third round, Lou Duva gave his fighter the ultimate encouragement: "You're boxing *byooteeful,* baby!"

Handicapped by a fractured left thumb and a swollen left eye, Davis, 145½, Bronx, New York, 32-1 (20), rallied in the fifth, sixth, and seventh, matching Taylor's volume and unleashing his dangerous left uppercut. But over the last half of the fight, Taylor alternately danced and traded and controlled the tempo. The difference was his speed.

"Don't get into a fight with this guy," Benton warned after the eighth.

Taylor gave away the 12th, drawing boos by circling and minimizing the exchanges. Given his clear points lead, and the result of the Chavez fight, his caution was excusable.

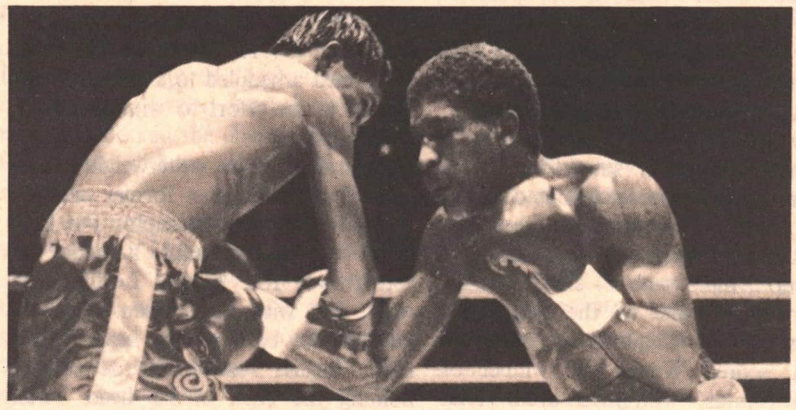
Taylor's first defense will be a mandatory against Venezuela's unbeaten Luis Garcia. Davis will likely move up to junior middleweight.

(1-19-91)

Steve Farhood

LUIS MENDOZA-NOREE JOCKYGYM

BANGKOK, THAILAND—It was the first dinner show featuring a world title bout at Panthip Plaza, one of the biggest cabarets in the Thai capital, and the crowd was amazed at referee Bernie Soto abruptly appearing in a gondola moving down from the ceiling to the squared circle.



Mendoza (right) counters against Jockygym

Colombian "Chicanero" Mendoza, the WBA junior featherweight champion, showed his experience and ringcraft in demolishing 22-year-old Thai Jockygym at 2:10 of the eighth round in a scheduled 12.

The skinny combatants exchanged sharp jabs in the first round, with Mendoza adding smooth lateral movement. The second round saw Jockygym land a hook that shook up the champion. But Mendoza fought back with quick combinations. Instructed by mentor Luis Spada, the champion made good use of his footwork and kept his distance. In round four, Mendoza connected with fast combinations to the face and midsection, and had the Thai staggering. Jockygym took the fifth session, as he caught the elusive champion with a good right, but he didn't follow up, probably because of his respect for Mendoza's vaunted counterpunching. The Colombian speedster moved in the sixth and attempted to outmaneuver the suddenly aggressive Thai.

Jockygym came forward to exchange solid blows at close range in the seventh. The end came in the next round. Mendoza exploded an overhand right, followed by a double left hook to the side of the belly and to the cheek. As Jockygym was going down, Mendoza lifted a vicious right uppercut to the chin. The challenger fell flat, but barely raised himself to beat the count. The eagle-eyed champion then pinned his fading foe to the corner and rained accurate punches, and Jockygym fell face-first. Referee Soto halted the battle without counting. Prior to the stoppage, the scoring: 69-66 for Jockygym and 67-67 (twice). The champion, making his second defense, bettered to 29-2-2 (17). The loser dipped to 34-9-1 (16).

(1-20-91)

Joe Koizumi ■

WORLDWIDE RESULTS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Orlin Norris KO 7 Jamie Howe
Tommy Morrison KO 1 Pinklon Thomas
Loren Ross KO 3 Melton Bowen
Joe Hipp KO 4 Mike Cohen

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Wali Muhammad W 10 James Salerno
Derek Angol KO 9 Dan Murphy

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Dennis Andries W 12 Guy Waters
(Retains WBC Title)
Thomas Hearns KO 2 Kemper Morton
Frank Tate W 12 Uriah Grant
Andrew Maynard KO 5 Robert Curry
Anthony Hembrick KO 5 Keith McMurray
Anthony Hembrick W 8 Israel Cole
Tom Collins KO 2 Christophe Girard

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Ron Essett KO 2 Johnny Williams
Tony Thornton KO 1 Eddie Hall
Juan Carlos Gimenez KO 2 Angel Caro

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Mike McCallum KO 4 Frankie Minton
(Non-Title Bout)
Michael Watson KO 6 Craig Trotter
Roy Jones KO 1 Ricky Stackhouse
Segundo Mercado KO 4 Alex Ramos
Kid Milo KO 10 Lou Cafaro
Willie Monroe W 10 Genaro Castro
Carlos Cruz W 12 Ismael Negron

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Terry Norris W 12 Sugar Ray Leonard
(Retains WBC Title)
Jorge Castro KO 4 Felipe Molinar
Jorge Castro KO 3 Ramon Garro
Gilbert Dele KO 3 Nino Cirillo
Brett Lally KO 4 Art Serwano
Lloyd Honeyghan KO 1 John Welters
Lloyd Honeyghan KO 4 Mario Olmedo
Yung Kil Chung KO 5 Francisco Lisboa

WELTERWEIGHTS

Meldrick Taylor W 12 Aaron Davis
(Wins WBA Title)
Buddy McGirt KO 9 Joe Alexander
Curtis Summit KO 10 Engels Pedroza
Kevin Pompey W 10 Tim Rabon
Nika Khumalo KO 7 Rene Arredondo
Del Bryan W 12 Kirkland Laing
Donovan Boucher KO 2 Brad Jeffries
Victor Davis KO 6 Sam Gervin

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Terrence Alli W 12 John Meekins
Pat Barrett KO 6 Salvatore Nardino
Pat Barrett KO 1 Jimmy Harrison
Vince Phillips KO 4 Benji Marquez
Todd Foster KO 2 Stanley Cunningham
Tony Martin W 12 Donald Allison

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Sharmba Mitchell W 10 Kevin Marston
Pedro Sanchez KO 7 Simon Rengifo
Osvaldo Corro KO 12 Fabian Tejeda
Darryl Tyson KO 7 Julio Guerrero
Joey Gamache KO 8 Jackie Beard
Lupe Suarez KO 2 Edgar Garcia
Kent Hardee KO 7 Jesse Williams

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Jeff Fenech KO 4 John Kalbhenn
Genaro Hernandez W Disq. 10 Pedro Arroyo
Alfred Rangel KO 7 Miguel Torres

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Ricardo Cepeda KO 3 Tony Duran
Louie Espinoza KO 6 Jose Sanabria
Eloy Rojas KO 7 Luis Guzman
Maurizio Stecca KO 5 Juan Armando Reyes
Rafael Ruelas KO 3 Tommy Valdez
Tracy Patterson KO 3 Vidal Tellez
Tom Johnson KO 4 Sylvestri Castillo
Miguel Francia W 12 Jose Sosa
Fabrice Benichou KO 7 Benny Baek
Chong Pil Park KO 9 Naoto Takahashi
Pedro Villegas W 10 Lucio Lopez
Tony Green KO 10 Myron Taylor

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Kiyoshi Hatanaka KO 8 Pedro Decima
(Wins WBC Title)
Luis Mendoza KO 8 Noree Jockygym
(Retains WBA Title)
Jemal Hinton W 12 Diego Avila
Jesse Benavides W 10 Rafael Ortega
Chun Huh KO 2 Ruben Palacios

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Fernie Morales W 12 Eddie Rangel

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Robert Quiroga W 12 Vincenzo Belcastro
(Retains IBF Title)
Kid Akeem KO 4 Jose Montiel
Armando Castro KO 5 Javier Lucas
Hugo Soto W 10 Santos Laciar

FLYWEIGHTS

Ysaias Zamudio W 12 Jesus Chong
Muangchai Kittikasem KO 3 Welgie Leonora

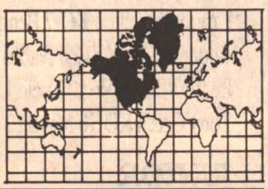
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Michael Carbajal KO 2 Macario Santos
(Retains IBF Title)

STRAWWEIGHTS

Hi Yong Choi W 12 Bong Jun Kim
(Wins WBA Title)
Macario Santos KO 8 Jorge Rivera

The RING AROUND THE WORLD



NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

MOBILE—Schriners Auditorium—Although localite **Floyd Williams** lost the early rounds to **Delfino Marin**, he took command in the third and won an eight-round unanimous decision and the new Southeastern welterweight title. Marin, 12-6, a farmhand from Winter Haven, Florida, opened a mouse on Williams' eye in the first round, but by the seventh was completely outclassed, with the referee warning him repeatedly for butting. Williams, 12-0, who never had an amateur fight, employed classy combinations and ripping uppercuts to gain the decision.

Ron Essett, the number-one contender for the WBC super middleweight title, TKO'd Johnny Williams, Tampa, in the second round.

Mobilian Robert Johnson, 11-3, TKO'd veteran Joe Goodman, Slidell, in the third round.

Pete Taliaferro, Mobile, 3-0, stopped Darin Neal, Port Arthur, Texas, in the fifth round; featherweights.

In a crowd-pleasing battle of light heavyweights, Terry Scott, Mobile, 7-0, won a six-round split decision over Robert Babcock, 3-1, Lake Charles. Scott employed no defense, and many thought Babcock deserved the nod.

Ivan Garrett scored a unanimous decision over Jerald Williams.

Promoters: Eddy Surret, Jack Links
Matchmaker: Jerry Tillman
Referee: Bobo Schaeffer
Judges: Bill Bounds, Leon Lamu
Attendance: 2,000 (estimated)
(1-14-91)

Dr. Laurence F. McNamee

CALIFORNIA

INGLEWOOD—Great Western Forum—In the first card of the year, NABF flyweight champion **Ysaias Zamudio**, 111½, Blythe, won a 12-round unanimous decision over late substitute **Jesus Chong**, 111½, Tucson, Arizona.

The early rounds were dominated by Zamudio, 21-3 (8), who was far too quick for Chong and threw the heavier combinations. Both men missed often. But it wasn't until the sixth that Chong won his first round, when the champion began to slow down. The crowd cheered Chong on in the seventh and eighth, but he showed no power and telegraphed his punches. The last three rounds, however, belonged to the challenger, especially the 11th, which was scored 10-8 on all three cards. In that stanza, a left-right combination floored Zamudio. Chong, 14-2 (13), was too wild on the follow-up and let his man survive through the stirring finish. The scoring: 115-111 (twice) and 114-113.

California state featherweight champion Rafael Ruelas, Arleta, 23-0 (20), stopped game Tommy Valdez, 31-6-1 (22), in three rounds to win the vacant IBC Americas featherweight title. Ruelas landed bodypunches and head shots from all angles. After three rounds of punishment, Valdez was quite happy with referee Chuck Hassett's stoppage.

David Kamau, Los Angeles, 138½, 11-0 (10), scored an impressive third-round stoppage of Juan de la Paz, 137, Mexico. Kamau stalked the Mexican throughout, cutting off the ring and working the body well. The end came after de la Paz, 12-4 (11), was dropped. He got up at the count of nine, but Kamau went after him, and the fight was quickly stopped.

Jose Castro, 135, Santa Ana, 11-2-1 (7), kayoed Mike Short, 136, San Diego, in eight.

Marco Flores, 132, Sierra Madre, decisioned Pedro Moreno, 132, Los Angeles, over four.

Salvador Montes, 137¼, Mexico, stopped John Roby, 131½, Long Beach, in one.

Larry Loy, 126, Van Nuys, outpointed Salvador Salazar, 128½, Blythe, over four.

Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis
Attendance: 5,127
(1-14-91)

INGLEWOOD—The Great Western Forum—Former IBF heavyweight champion **Tony Tucker**, 243¾, put a tremendous show of power to stop **Lionel Washington** at 1:11 of the first round to win the California State title. Tucker, 39-1, Beverly Hills, completely overwhelmed Washington, 233, Bakersfield, 11-8.

Perhaps inspired by the presence of Muhammad Ali at ringside, Tucker's two-fisted exhibition showed that he will be dangerous for any ranked heavyweight. Tucker secured a spot on the Tommy Hearns-Virgil Hill extravaganza in June.

In a super lightweight attraction, Lalo Velasquez, 20-7 (12), survived a knockdown in the second round to stop game Kenny Comer, 11-5 (8), in the fifth round of a scheduled 10. It was Velasquez' first start since losing to Harold Brazier a year ago.

In a 10-round yawner, Vince Durham, 163, Los Angeles, 8-2-1 (10), won a unanimous decision over Robert Carson, 161, Cleveland, 12-6-2 (6).

A member of the fighting Quarry clan made his mark when Bobby Quarry, 222½, flattened Dave Kilgour, 194, in the fourth round with a powerhouse right. Kilgour was out on his feet before staggering back to his corner. Prior to the knockout, Kilgour, 8-2 (6), had been roughing up Quarry, 9-7-2 (6), on the ropes.

Ernesto Magdaleno decisioned Louie Ornelas over five rounds; heavyweights.

Matchmaker: Antonio Curtis
(1-28-91)

RESEDA—The Country Club—In yet another sellout promotion, **Jimmy Ellis**, 223, Redondo Beach, made short work of out-of-condition **Greg Gorrell**, 200, Wichita, Kansas. Ellis, 14-0-1 (13), took control at the outset, punishing Gorrell and his ample midriff at will. He had his man down early in the second round, and although Gorrell got up quickly, his game plan fell apart. After seeing about 30 seconds of one-way traffic, referee Chuck Hasset had no option but to stop the fight after 1:30 of the second round, despite the protests of Gorrell and his corner. Gorrell fell to 23-11-1.

The flashy Anthony Hembrick looked stale and awkward at times during his eight-round unanimous points win over clumsy and persistent Israel Cole, 176, Las Vegas. Hembrick, 178½, Detroit, was coming off some inspired sparring with Tommy Hearns. Hembrick had Cole in trouble in the third round but let his man off the hook, allowing the African to shove him around the ring. Cole lost a point for dangerous head work in the sixth round. The 78-73 scoring (all three cards) seemed overly generous to the winner. It was a good learning experience for Hembrick, who is on the comeback trail following his shocking defeat at the hands of Booker T. Word last year. Hembrick improved to 16-1 (9); Cole 12-7-4 (8).

Crowd-pleasing Rocky Pepeli did it again, this time relying on a close but unanimous four-round decision over Vince Jones, 212, Houston, 6-3 (3). Pepeli, 224, Burbank, took some tremendous shots to the head, and got cut on the forehead from a butt, but did enough to warrant the decision. Pepeli, 10-1-1 (9), gains in confidence with each fight.

New Ten Goose signee Frank Liles, 173, Los Angeles, 15-0 (9), scored a first-round knockout over Tim Williams. The out-of-shape Williams, 16-17-1, could never figure Liles out, and a series of strategically planned punches eliminated him at 2:11.

Joey DeGrandis, 163, Van Nuys, scored a six-round decision over Fred Thomas, 163, Los Angeles.

Promoter: Ten Goose Boxing
Matchmaker: Thomas Brown
(1-29-91)

Michael Hepworth

IRVINE—Marriott Hotel—Southpaw **John Armijo**, 154, Huntington Beach, 11-1-1, kayoed **Ernie Valentine**, 156, Stockton, in the fifth round of a scheduled 10-round bout. Valentine spent most of his time on the defensive and was unable to penetrate the wild-swinging Armijo, who forced the action. A hard right to Valentine's chin ended the bout at 1:06 of the fifth. Referee: Larry Rozadilla.

Hector Pena, 142½, Los Angeles, won a six-round unanimous decision over Lauro Guerro, 142½, San Bernardino. Referee: Lou Moret.

An unintentional head butt in the opening minute of the first round halted the pro debut of James Nellems, 154, San Diego, against Mohamid Bencheck, 151, France, fighting out of Los Angeles. The contest was declared a no decision. Referee: Raul Caiz.

In a five-round junior featherweight match, southpaw John Ramirez, 121¼, Oxnard, won a disputed decision over Javier Torrez, 120, Bell. Ramirez was floored in the fourth. Referee: Moret.

Ramon Villaneuva, 137½, Oxnard, won a split decision over Hector Mojardin, 135, Paramount, in four rounds. Referee: Rudy Jordan.

Joey Martin, 145, La Habra, 4-0, used an effective jab to win a four-round unanimous decision over game Carlos Zamora, 145½, Los Angeles, 0-1. Referee: Caiz.

Dr. Michael Deluca was honored as the recipient of the Joe Louis Humanitarian award prior to the main event.

Promoter: Don Fraser
Matchmaker: John Cabrera
(1-31-91)

Paul Silverman

COLORADO

DENVER—In a battle of local middleweights, **John Welters** was credited with a fifth-round TKO when the referee rescued aged **Oran Butler** from further punishment. Welters had floored Butler in the previous round.

Rick Basler, Denver, was cheated from an apparent win in his previous junior welterweight outing with Greg Maddox. (The ring post collapsed in the final frame, causing a no contest decision.) This time around, the ring posts and Basler held together just fine, and Basler rung up a four-round unanimous nod.

Promoter: Vern Stevenson
Attendance: 300 (estimated)
(12-29-90)

DENVER—Regency—Local middleweight **Donnie Giron** 11-2-2 (9), pummeled Omaha's

Darrel Miller from ring post to ring post before laying him out for the 10-count at 1:13 of the second frame in a scheduled 10.

John Welters, 25-3, TKO'd Oran Butler at 2:59 of the third. The two local junior middleweights had fought only a month before.

A rare duel between promising and undefeated young middleweights provided spectacular sways in momentum and drama, as localites Earl Jackson, 5-0-2, and Marker Lucero, 3-0-1, emptied their hearts and their arsenals in the best six-rounder this writer has ever witnessed. Judges Thierry Smith and Joe Williams saw the fight even, and even the crowd applauded the draw.

Promising welterweight Michael Powell, Denver, 5-0 (2), stopped Tom Randell, Grand Island, at 2:03 of the first.

Promoter: Lupita Promotions
Referees: Magarito Berzoza, Novar Garcia
Judges: Joe Williams, Carlos Lando, Theirry Smith, John Uliberri
Physician: Dr. Gentry Dunlop
Attendance: 600 (estimated)
(2-1-91)

Ed Walsh

GEORGIA

DECATUR—Libra Club—**Mike Dixon**, 203, Atlanta, dropped **Johnny Wright** with a love tap early in the first round and was declared the winner when Wright refused to get up.

Pat Johnson, 142, Cartersville, had little trouble with Bryan White, 136, Springfield, Arkansas, dropping him for the count at 2:29 of the second.

John Wade, 156, Nashville, stopped Roosevelt Walker, 159, Atlanta, in the second round.

Matthew Charleston, 156, Stone Mountain, won a four-round decision over Wilbert Blaine, 155, Springfield, Arkansas.

Garrett Anderson, 165, Atlanta, 4-0, won a six-round decision over Charles Zachary, 164, Newnan, 4-2.

Homer Gibbons, 139, Riverdale, 5-1, used beautiful combinations and good bodywork to score a second-round TKO over Jarvis McMillan, 151, Springfield, Arkansas.

Promoter: Peachtree Promotions
Referee: Jim Korb, Al Pruitt
Judges: Irwin Deutsch, Kevin Concoran, Bobby Ezor
Physican: Dr. Vic Bouquette
Attendance: 600 (estimated)
(1-31-91)

Frank Whitecotton

IDAHO

BOISE—Western Idaho Fairgrounds—**Mike Grow**, 137, Lewiston, 22-4, won a well-fought 10-round unanimous decision over **Billy Turner**, 137, Bishop, California.

Kenny Keene, 184, Emmett, dropped Shawn Jewell, Bend Oregon, late in the third before knocking him out early in the fourth.

In a battle of promising middleweights, Roger Orlainita, 13-2, Reno, kayoed Brandon Fleming, Boise, with a flush left hook at 2:36 of the third frame; scheduled for 10.

Enrique Marino, Caldwell, scored a first-round TKO over Jorge Flores, Carson City, in a scheduled four-round welterweight bout.

Promoter: Mad Max Promotions
Matchmaker: Ted Walker
Attendance: 800 (estimated)
(1-29-91)

Ed Walsh

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS—The Sherwood Club—In a bout for the vacant Indiana junior middleweight title, **Terry Thomas**, 151, Lafayette, won a 10-round unanimous decision over **Bingo Dickerson**, 153, Indianapolis. Thomas dropped Dickerson early in the first round and dominated with an excellent jab and superior speed. All three judges scored 100-89.

Clarence White, 161, Indianapolis, won a six-round decision over veteran trialhorse Jake Torrance, 158, Gary.

Hector Ramirez, 140, Columbus, decisioned game Kevin Sedam, 141, Indianapolis, over four action-packed rounds.

Tony Davi, 156, Mr. Royal, New Jersey, and Gary Smith, 161½, Lexington, Kentucky, fought a four-round draw.

Dick Ryan, 230, Omaha, and Rad Brewer, 264, Frankfort, crossed gloves in a four-round no decision contest.

Promoter: Fred Berns
Matchmaker: Pete Susens
Referee: George DeFabis
Judges: Fred Jones, Lance Rhodes, Gary Merritt
Attendance: 340
(1-29-91)

HAMMOND—Civic Center—**Jack Callahan**, 158, Hammond, 28-2 (13), won an easy 10-round unanimous decision over **Keheven Johnson**, 155, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The always-in-shape Callahan was much busier and quicker. Scores: 100-90 (twice) and 98-92.

In a bloody eight-rounder, Marty Jakubowski, 137, Whiting, got the nod over game Bobby Amsler, © 41, Hiawatha, Iowa. In rounc Jakubowski suffered a bloody nose and cut mouth. Amsler sustained a bad cut over his right eye in the sixth. Scores: 80-72 (twice) and 79-73.

In a hard-fought four-rounder, Gary Kirkland, 142, Whiting, decisioned Jim Kaczmarek, 138, South Bend.

Byron Peterson, 131, Whiting, won a four-round decision over Ray Harris, 130, Oklahoma City.

Anthony Wade, 245, Indianapolis, decisioned Tim Richards, 190, Ft. Wayne, in four.

George Foreman and Tim Tomashek fought a three-round exhibition and received a standing ovation for an entertaining show.

Promoter: Fred Berns
Matchmaker: Pete Susens
Referees: Sean Curtin, Pete Podgorski
Judges: Fred Jones, Monte Cox, Gary Merritt
Attendance: 1,200 (estimated)
(1-30-91)

GREENSBURG—Jr. High School Gym—**Craig Houk**, 147, Greensburg, 23-1, easily outboxed **Brian Young**, 144, Elkhart, to win the vacant state welterweight title. Houk avenged his only loss. Scores: 99-90 (twice) and 100-88.

Kenneth Kidd, 154, Jackson, Tennessee, won a six-round decision over Tim Payton, 151, Lousiville, Kentucky.

Anthony Wade, 254, Indianapolis, scored a six-round nod over Brian Morgan, 197, Fort Wayne.

Shannon Landberg, 159, Lafayette, kayoed Rick ic Tolbert, 150, Hamilton, Ohio, at 45 seconds of the second round.

Rico Hernandez, 149, Oklahoma City, won a four-round decision over Vernon Garrett, 146, Oklahoma City.

Promoter: Fred Berns
Matchmaker: Pete Susens
Referees: George DeFabis, Sean Curtin
Judges: Fred Jones, Charlie Tudor, Gary Merritt
Attendance: 700 (estimated)
(2-2-91)

LOUISIANA

VINTON—Longhorn Club—**Tommy Tate**, 159, Houston, stopped pitiful **Rick Johnson**, 155, Memphis, 30 seconds into round one. Tate, 15-0, sent Johnson down for the 10-count with the first four punches he threw.

Stephen Martinez, 150, Houston, TKO'd iron-jawed Joe McGee, 148, Memphis, 37 seconds into the fourth round.

Richard Gobert, 147, Vinton, got up off the deck three times to defeat Glynn Brown, 151, Bogalusa, on a six-round split decision. Although Gobert is a localite, the crowd booed the decision.

Ray Thomas, 188, Vinton, won a six-round unanimous decision over David Franklin, 183½, Houston, in the only competitive match on the card.

Tony Snow, 155, Houston, kayoed James Tarver, 159, Memphis, at 1:55 of round three.

Kerwin Dockery, 233, Houston, stopped Charlie Moore, 188¼, Vinton, at 2:22 of the first round.

Gary Butler, 222, Beaumont, TKO'd Darren Delafosse, 210, Vinton, 2:21 into round one.

Lionel Butler, 231, Bogalusa, stopped James Rafferty, 216, Vinton, 40 seconds into the fight.

Promoter: Ray Cotton
Matchmakers: Brenda Ramer, Dick Menchaca, Jerome Peete
Attendance: 475
(2-5-91)

Moises Bertrand

MARYLAND

GLEN BURNIE—La Fontaine Blue—**Victor Davis**, 149, Mitchellville, had a tough time with **Sam Gervin**, 149, Columbus, Ohio, before stopping him at 1:49 of the sixth in a scheduled 10. Gervin was in good shape and got off first, catching Davis with

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stiff uppercuts. Going into the sixth, Gervin seemed ahead when Davis caught him along the ropes with powerful combinations and knocked him down with a left hook to the head. Gervin got up, but further punishment prompted referee Frank Kelly to stop the fight.

Mark Padeletti, 142½, Baltimore, stopped Sammy Ray Hunter, 141, Baltimore, at 1:59 of the fourth. Padeletti, cut over the right eye in the second round, came on strong as Hunter wilted. Referee: Kelly.

Cliff McPherson, 182, Glen Burnie, won a four-round majority decision over Ron Preston, 182, Pittsburgh. The staredown was much better than the fight. Referee: Terry Moore.

Gary Walker, 159, Baltimore, won a four-round split decision over Terrell Harris, 161, Pittsburgh. The scoring was not announced, but Walker clearly deserved the win. Referee: Ray Klingmeyer.

Promoters: Round One Promotions, Vicki Savaliski

Matchmaker: Josh Hall

Judges and Timekeepers: Larry Barrett, Milton Greene, Ray Klingmeyer, Karl Milligan, Frank Kelly (rotating)

Attendance: 550 (estimated)

(1-10-91)

LANHAM—La Fontaine Bleu—Before the bouts, a special presentation was given to Henry Thomas, honoring his 55 years in boxing. Thomas aptly advised the sellout crowd to keep its faith in the United States, which had entered the Persian Gulf War just a few hours earlier.

Everyone came to see undefeated lightweight **Sharmba Mitchell** attempt to keep his unbeaten streak alive against **Kevin Marston**. Although there was no TV for the card, Mitchell's co-manager, Bruce Gelb, stated, "We like the idea for Sharmba to occasionally perform live in his hometown, especially against an opponent as tough as Marston."

Mitchell, 134, Washington, D.C., whose punching power has been subject of late, took the New York State lightweight champion the full 10 rounds, but didn't land any clean, hard shots. Marston, 132, Jamaica, New York, immediately backed up Mitchell, 21-0 (10), and continued his straightforward attack for most of the bout. But Mitchell's superior hand speed and defensive ability frustrated the bombing Marston.

There were no knockdowns, and Mitchell's movement gave referee Milton Greene little to do. Contrary to the lopsided scoring for Mitchell (Frank Kelly, 99-94, Karl Milligan, 99-91, and Larry Barrett, 98-95), Marston, 12-3 (3), was not an easy foe.

Another southpaw, Tim "Da Bamma" Hillie, 174½, Washington, D.C., won a six-round decision over rugged Nestor Flores, 175, New York City, 18-6-2. Hillie, 11-0-1, telegraphed his punches but was more accurate, as Flores was wide with most of his. Referee: Ray Klingmeyer.

Demetrius Davis, 147, Mitchellville, 4-3-2, won a six-round unanimous decision over Calvin Moody, 148, Hayes, Virginia, 8-5. Referee: Milligan.

After taking a straight right hand in the second round, Reginald Little, 148, Hillcrest, 4-0-1, woke up and outworked Anthony "Doc" Ross, 147, Alexandria, Virginia, 8-5, to earn a six-round majority decision. The fighters provided good brawling action. Referee: Barrett.

Andrew Council, 156, Lanham, 2-0 (2), provided the only short route of the night in stopping Darryl Brooks 158¾, Durham, North Carolina, at 2:41 of the third round. Council cornered Brooks and landed a left-right, with the right connecting flush. Referee: Kelly.

Promoter: Kenny Willis

Matchmaker: Brenda Davis

Timekeeper and Judges: Frank Kelly, Larry Barrett, Ray Klingmeyer, Karl Milligan, Milton Greene (rotating)

Attendance: 500 (estimated)

(1-16-91)

Fred Blumstein

ROCKVILLE—Local retread **Phil Gilberti**, 201, dropped a majority 10-round verdict to tough trial-horse **Dean Moore**, 188, Forest City, North Carolina. Gilberti got off to a bad start when he was outmuscled in rugged infighting by the stocky, overweight Moore.

Though the underdog deserved his win, Larry Barrett's 96-96 was closer to reality than the punitive 99-94 and 99-91 of Frank Kelly and Milton Greene, respectively. Terry Moore refereed.

Live-wire Donnie Parker, 136, Baltimore, was too quick and versatile for flatfooted Wilfredo De La Cruz, 132¼, Rockville, scoring a split decision win in a fast-paced six. Parker won by 60-55 from Kelly and 59-56 from Greene, while Moore favored the loser, 57-56. Referee: Barrett.

A bad decision was registered against vaunted amateur star Cecil Thompson, 125, Washington, D.C., 0-1, who dropped a split four-round verdict to Richard DeJesus, 126, Wilmington, Delaware. In furious bell-to-bell trading, DeJesus had his flashy eruptions, but it was Thompson who kept up the steady attack. Referee: Kelly.

David Izegwire, 175, Washington, D.C., a Nigerian student who wandered into a D.C. gym, TKO'd Dexter Nicholson, 170, Greenwood, South Carolina, at 1:30 of the first; scheduled for four. Nicholson was getting bombed when he tried to signal "time." Referee Milligan gave him the night off.

Promoter & Matchmaker: Don Elbaum

Attendance: 325

(1-21-91)

J.R. Jowett

OWINGS MILLS—Painter's Mill Theatre—**Andrew Maynard**, under new trainer Junious Hinton, took a new image after losing to Bobby Czyz last summer in Atlantic City. Now known as "Smilin" Drew Maynard, a label given to him by his wife, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist needed just five rounds to stop slow, short, and plump **Robert Curry**, 169½, Clarksburg, West Virginia. Maynard, 175, Laurel, 14-1 (11), dropped Curry, 23-14 (8), in the first, third, and twice in the fifth before referee Ray Klingmeyer stopped the beating with 15 seconds left in the round.

In one of the better-matched bouts seen here in a while, Mark Buchanon, 155, Norfolk, Virginia, 11-2 (9), stopped Willie Galliwango, 152, Baltimore, 14-1 (12), at 2:50 of the seventh. Referee Frank Kelly.

Edwin Newby, 171, Atlantic City, 4-4, TKO'd Cecil Sims, 168, Baltimore, at 2:25 of the second round in a scheduled four. Referee Larry Barrett stopped it as Sims was in serious trouble while trapped in a corner.

An imposing Pony Matador, 146, Baltimore, 3-0 (2), stopped a slapping Shae Laurel, 140, Norfolk, Virginia, 1-1, at 1:05 of the first, set for four. Referee Milton Greene.

Gerry Walker, 160, Baltimore, 4-2 (2), knocked down Tracy Brown, 162, Richmond, Virginia, 2-2, three times in the first round, causing referee Karl Milligan to halt the four-rounder at the 2:10 mark.

Glen Randolf, 142, Rockville, won a four-round unanimous decision over Lorenzo Whitehead, 134, Washington, D.C.. Referee: Terry Moore.

Promoter: Baltimore Professional Bouts (Stuart Satosky)

Matchmaker: Johnny Bos

Timekeepers & Judges: Ray Klingmeyer, Frank Kelly, Larry Barrett, Milton Greene, Terry Moore, Karl Milligan (rotating)

Attendance: 1,800 (estimated)

(1-24-91)

Fred Blumstein

MASSACHUSETTS

TAUNTON—Roseland Ballroom—**Mike Cappiello**, 16-1 (7), won a clear-cut eight-round decision over **Angel Carrera**. Cappiello, the reigning New England featherweight and junior lightweight champion, had fought just three rounds in the preceding six months, due to a shoulder injury and two quick knockouts.

Cappiello, 132, West Bridgewater, spent the first couple of rounds in a defensive posture. Carrera, 129, Bridgeport, was happy to oblige, boldly attacking and landing some overhand rights. By the third, Cappiello stopped impersonating Willie Pep and stepped inside to rough up his foe's body. Carrera, 4-4, never found an antidote for that, and as the bout wore on, his own shots missed more and more. Carrera went through the ropes briefly in the final frame for the bout's only knockdown, but he provided a game effort throughout. *The Ring* had Cappiello winning 78-73.

Doug Sheerin, 157, Scituate, continue his comeback with a workmanlike decision over Julio Torres, 154. Sheerin, who worked as a referee during the nine-year retirement he ended in November, improved to 6-0 (3), with all three officials tabbing it a shutout. Torres fell to 5-4 (1).

Jose Torres, 152, Hartford, 10-4 (6), the brother of Julio, had much better luck in his four-round decision over Brockton's Mike Culbert, 158. Culbert, 6-2 (2), was coming off a 16-month layoff and looked it.

Paul Poirier, 205, New Bedford, 29-0, won his third bout in the heavyweight ranks, flooring Fabian Arroyo, 210, Hartford, twice en route to a TKO at 2:42 of round one. Poirier, a teenage middleweight in the 1970s, won the crowd over by donating his entire purse to the scholarship fund created in memory of Robin Dabrowski, the New Bedford High School freshman basketball player slain on January 5 by a highway sniper while riding on a bus to a game.

Sean Fitzgerald, 156, Worcester, scored three knockdowns and TKO'd. Springfield's John Abrahamian, 165, at 2:03 of ,round one.

Luis Maysonett, 151, Hartford, had no trouble with Tony Diaz, 152, Worcester, who went down for the count at 1:33 of the first frame.

Promoter: Taunton Boxing Association

Matchmaker: Chuck Rose

Referees: Ed Fitzgerald, Gerry Leone

Judges: Peter Modica, Robert McCoy

Physician: Dr. Richard Greenburg

Attendance: 400 (estimated)

(1-11-91)

Jay N. Miller

MICHIGAN

AUBURN HILLS—The Palace—**Jemal Hinton**, 121¾, 16-0 (12), District Heights, Maryland, via the Kronk gym, successfully defended the WBC Continental Americas super bantamweight title by winning a 12-round unanimous decision over a tough and ready **Diego Avila**, 122, 34-23-6 (13), Mexico City. Hinton survived a flash knockdown in the fourth and finally figured that a stick-and-move strategy was the fight plan to adhere to.

Junior welterweight Oba Carr, 16-0 (12), dominated a taller, more experienced Pat Brennan 142, 14-6-1 (6), Reno, Nevada, with three knockdowns in the first stanza. In that short time, Brennan suffered a cut left eyebrow, a puffy right cheekbone, a black eye, and contusions over the bridge of his nose.

Undefeated junior middleweight Ron Morgan, 156¼, Cincinnati, 9-0 (6), scored a seventh-round TKO over Dorrel Van Horn, 158, Detroit, 9-2 (2), who never really seemed to be in it. Referee: Marv McDonald.

Grand Rapids' seven-foot Marcellus Brown, 218, 12-3 (11), scored a majority decision over Danny Blake, 210, Milwaukee, 11-33.

Jason Crutchfield, 139, Flint, 8-0-2 (6), decisively whipped Leon Shavers, 143, Cincinnati, 2-4-1, in the first round, dropping him twice and sending him through the ropes after doubling him over with a body attack. Referee Tom Paruszkiewicz called a halt at 39 seconds of the second stanza when Shavers retired after absorbing a straight right lead that busted his nose.

Theotrice Chambers III, 124¼, Detroit, 5-0 (5), stopped Vernon Cato, 119¾, Detroit, 0-1, at 21 seconds of the first round. Referee Paruszkiewicz stopped the contest after Cato, trying to recover from a crushing left hook, collapsed.

Attendance: 9,000 (estimated)

Television: USA Cable

(1-22-91)

Tom Paruszkiewicz

MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL—Prom Expo Center—The first show of a new promotional group, In-Step Promotions, was a rousing sellout success even though the card was made up mostly of local prelim boxers. In a pier-six heavyweight battle, **Bill "The Wild Irish Rose" Corrigan**, Rosemount, 2-1 (2), stopped pro wrestler/actor **Jeff Warner**, Minneapolis, 1-1 (1), at 2:03 of the first.

In a spirited welterweight bout, Frank Newton, St. Paul, 7-2-3 (1), came back from a first-round eye cut to capture a unanimous six-round decision over Cortez Box, Minneapolis, 4-1.

Junior welterweight Bob Butters, White Bear Lake, 4-0 (3), had easy pickings, stopping Rick Seeman, Chicago, in the first round.

Johnny Montantasz, St. Paul, 5-0 (5), stopped tough Blaine Biers, Rochester, 1-5, on cuts in the first round; junior welterweights.

Larry LaCoursiere, Hastings, 2-0 (1), won a four-round verdict over Robert Dixon, Memphis.

Attendance: 800 (estimated)

(1-25-91)

George D. Blair

MONTANA

HARVE—College Auditorium—In a complete mismatch that couldn't possibly advance his career, 1988 Olympian **Todd Foster**, 16-0 (15), Great Falls, dismantled **Stanley Cunningham**, 10-4-2, at 1:19 of the second heat. Foster was touched once by the Canadian before unloading. Ranked 11th at junior welterweight by the NABF, Foster has been slowed by brittle hands. Trainer Kenny Weldon termed his

effort "perfect."

Tocker Pudwill, Williston, North Dakota, 6-0, scored a six-round decision over Cliff Liknes, Calgary, 2-2, in a bloody brawl; welterweights.

Aaron Many Guns, Calgary, 3-0, came off the canvas in the first to put away rugged Bob Gonyea, 3-3, Butte, at 1:55 in the fourth; junior middleweights.

John Freeman, Williston, 4-0, beat Billy Preston, Tulsa, 2-3, for an easy six-round decision; light heavyweights.

Chuck Richards, Williston, 4-0, pounded Jason Harrison, Oklahoma City, 2-5, until the referee waved it off at 1:17 of the second frame; junior lightweights.

Promoter: Gary Langley
Referees: Kevin McCarl, John LeFebre
Judges: Bill Harrington, Kenny Kampf
Attendance: 1,700
(1-26-91)

Doug Nassif

NEW JERSEY

NEWARK—Quality Inn/Robert Treat Hotel—**Robert Folley**, 178, Newark, had to pull out all the stops to salvage a costly win over **James Miller**, 177½, Richmond, in the seventh of a scheduled eight. Folley tried to outslick Miller by drawing him into exchanges, slipping and countering. It worked, but not often enough, as the spirited Miller's hustle at times made the veteran Folley look old.

Miller led going into the fateful seventh. The anxious Folley threw away all pretense of civility and hurled himself into a clubbing streetfight that soon had Miller cowering on the ropes. Fortunately, referee Earl Morton alertly recognized Miller's symptoms and quickly halted the action at the 1:17 mark. Many fans were surprised by the sudden end to a close fight. Miller remained conscious, but it soon became evident that he was in distress, and was promptly taken to the hospital.

Ray McElroy, 158, Long Beach, California, 11-0, won an eight-round unanimous decision over southpaw Ernest Kennedy, 159, Philadelphia, 7-1. Referee: Morton.

Donny Leonardo, 154½, Staten Island, outgritted Tyrone Dillard, 155, Philadelphia, and kayoed him at 2:57 of the third. Referee: Randy Neumann.

Promoter: Murad Muhammed
Matchmaker: Abdullah Muhammed
Attendance: 275
(12-12-90)

ATLANTIC CITY—Harrah's Marina—Ringsiders have long wondered how **Nate Miller**, a physical fighter with no particular style who largely wills himself to win, could continue to do so. But the manner of his defeat, by a bad decision in a dreadful fight, even deprived the cynics of a good "I told you so." Miller, 191, Philadelphia, defended the NABF cruiserweight crown for the fourth time, against **James Warring**, 189, Miami.

The challenger, who had previously distinguished himself only as a kickboxer, enjoyed one brief moment at the end of the opening round. A second before the bell, Warring launched a karate-chop right that cut down the stunned Miller like he'd been shot. Miller showed a champion's heart to struggle up and stumble instinctively to a panic-stricken corner.

After such a rousing start, the bout dragged on through 11 more dreary rounds. Miller, 18-2 (15), was game, but in a fog, while Warring could neither find that right again, nor do much of anything else. Little of significance happened until the decision.

By the time it all fizzled out, it appeared the champion had clawed his way back to an inglorious win. But Sylvester Stevens voted 116-112, Al DeVito 116-114, and Phil Newman 114-113, all for Warring. *The Ring* scored 114-112 for Miller. The new titlist, 11-1 (7), was the most surprised person in the place, while the ex-champion shook his head in disappointment. Joe Cortez refereed.

Dale Jackson, 174, Brigantine, dropped Ed Mack, 176¼, Philadelphia, with a nifty right counter off the ropes. But when Mack scrambled up and charged back into the fray, heads clanged, and Jackson suffered a viciously cut right eye. The scheduled six couldn't continue past 1:25 of the third, and was declared a technical draw. Referee: Bob Palmer.

William "Hammer" Jones, 149¾, Philadelphia, easily dispatched Stacy Burrus, 143, Chesapeake, Virginia, who was blasted floorward three times in 1:58 of the first; scheduled eight. Referee: Cortez.

Nick Rupa, 150, Bowmanville, Ontario, survived a badly cut left eye and wore out Demetrius Davis, 145, Washington, D.C., to gain a unanimous verdict in a punishing six. Referee: Cortez.

Garfield McKenzie, 146, Philadelphia, dropped Ricky Rucker, 146, Philadelphia, in the first and second rounds, then fizzled and barely held on to take a unanimous six-round win. Referee: Palmer.

Richard Andrews, 127, Philadelphia, gained a narrow, deserved majority verdict over gritty Donnie Archer, 127, Clementon, in a bristling four. Referee: Cortez.

Amahl Bacon, 199, Atlantic City, was clobbering Lou Turchiarelli, 210, Buffalo, all over the ring when Palmer stopped the scheduled four at 2:22 of the first.

Promoter: Peltz Boxing Promotions
Matchmaker: J. Russell Peltz
TV: SportsChannel America
Judges (undercard): Jean Williams replaced Sylvester Stevens
Attendance: 700 (estimated)
(12-17-90)

ATLANTIC CITY—Taj Mahal's Mark Etess Arena—**Vinnie Burgese**, 21-3-1 (12), jumped ship almost to the day that his contract with Russell Peltz ran out, and look what happened to him! Burgese, 140, Philadelphia, was belted out at 2:18 of the 12th and final round by unheralded but dangerous journeyman **Ildemar Paisan**, 138, Caracas, 25-8-2 (16). Referee: Steve Smoger.

The storybook saga of John Rafuse, 18-12 (7), came to a bitter final chapter in the companion 10. Rafuse, 140, Saugus, Massachusetts, was soundly drubbed in losing a unanimous decision to upstart Jake Rodriguez, 142, Central Islip, New York, 12-1-2 (4). John Poturaj scored 100-90, Joe Pasquale 99-90, and Lynne Carter 99-91. Rafael Ramos refereed.

Touted Ricky Meyers, 141¾, Port Reading, won a six-round split decision over Oscar Ponce, 141, Philadelphia. Referee: Ramos.

Charles Brewer, 160½, Philadelphia, gained a narrow, unanimous verdict over Freddy Sanchez, 160, Catano, Puerto Rico, in a hard-fought six. A slick counter hook dropped Sanchez in the first, but it hung around to give the talented Brewer all he wanted, cutting Brewer's left eye in the fourth. Referee: Smoger.

Gerald Gray, 139½, Queens, TKO'd Charles Folks, 140, Reading, when Ramos stopped the scheduled four at 2:32 of the second.

Colm Meehan, 188½, Belfast via New York City, TKO'd an ill-trained Tracy Todd, 188½, Youngstown, at 2:19 of the third. Referee: Smoger.

Promoter: Bob Arum
Matchmaker: Ron Katz
Attendance: 2,200 (estimated)
TV: Telemundo
(12-28-90)

J.R. Jowett

ATLANTIC CITY—Trump Taj Mahal—**Bruce Seldon**, 227, Atlantic City, 17-0 (14), survivied a first-round knockdown–less than 10 seconds into the fight—to beat **Jose Ribalta**, 232¼, Miami, 31-6-2 (22). The ringside doctor stopped the bout before the bell for round four due to Ribalta's swollen right eye. The loser has absorbed a pounding. Referee: Ted Pick.

Tommy "The Duke" Morrison, 226½, Kansas City, 25-0 (21), dropped James "Quick" Tillis, 227½, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 37-18-1 (28), three times, forcing an automatic stoppage at 1:51 of the first round. Referee: Joe Cortez.

Heavyweight Sam Speach, 226, Philadelphia, 8-1 (5), scored a TKO at 2:19 of the fourth round over Mike Robinson, 220¼, Albany, New York, 4-7-1 (2).

Yuri Vaulin, 203½, Yonkers, New York, via the Soviet Union, 11-1 (7), captured a unanimous decision over Jesse Boston, 200¼, Trenton, 5-1 (2).

Lou Savarese, 232, Houston, 17-0 (15), won a unanimous but drab six-round decision over Marshall Tillman, 216½, New Orleans, 5-2-1 (5).

Joe Hansberry, 214, New York City, 3-1-1 (1), earned a unanimous four-round decision over Cory Coulter, 196, Albany, 2-6 (2).

Promoter: Bob Arum
Matchmaker: Ron Katz
Attendance: 3,650
TV: Pay-Per-View
(1-11-91)

Joseph C. Tintle

ATLANTIC CITY—Trump Taj Mahal, Mark Etess Arena—The Triple Threat Team's **Charles "The Natural" Murray**, Rochester, New York, via South Orange, 19-0 (12), successfully defended the USBA 140-pound title when he outboxed journeyman spoiler **David Taylor**, 19-13-2 (10), over 12 rounds. Frank Cairo and Frank Brunette scored 120-108, and Lynne Carter 119-109. Rafael Ramos refereed.

Two unbeaten prospects clashed in the co-feature 12, with the boxer clearly defeating the punch-

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er. James Toney, 160, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 24-0-1 (17), who appears to be the genuine article, gained a split decision over thunderous puncher Merqui Sosa, 158½, Ozone Park, Queens, 18-1 (14). John Poturaj had 115-112 and William Kostrub 117-109 for Toney. John Riley somehow tabbed for Sosa, 114-13.

Roland Commings, 137½, Youngstown, walked through skinny southpaw Steve Thomas, 135½, Detroit, who was dropped and TKO'd at 1:35 of the first; scheduled for six. Referee: Paul Venti.

Jeff Trimble, 125½, Youngstown, won a four-round unanimous decision over southpaw wildman Gerado Padilla, 126, New York City. Referee: Venti.

David Telesco, 175, Port Chester, New York, stopped Anthony Sutton, 176½, Irvington, with a left hook at 1:16 of the first. Referee: Ramos.

Promoter: Bob Arum
Matchmaker: Ron Katz
Attendance: 2,390
TV: ESPN
(1-13-91)

J.R. Jowett

ATLANTIC CITY—Convention Center—On the undercard of the WBA welterweight title fight between Aaron Davis and Meldrick Taylor, another 147-pounder, top-rated **Buddy McGirt**, 146, Brentwood, New York, returned after a five-month layoff and stopped Philadelphia's **Joe Alexander**, 148, 16-16-2 (5), at 2:40 of the ninth round. McGirt, 51-2-1 (40), had injured his left bicep in a July 1990 victory over Jose Bermudez.

McGirt's performance was studied, but there was nothing to suggest that his arm is not 100 percent healed. Alexander, a survivor who offered almost no offense, was dropped by a hook in the second. After two more knockdowns in the ninth, referee Randy Neumann stepped in.

In a minor upset, top-10 welterweight Engels Pedroza, 146, Las Vegas, 31-3 (30), was stopped in the 10th and final round by Curtis Summit, 148, White Plains, New York. Summit, 16-5-1 (7), who had worked as a sparring partner for Meldrick Taylor, countered well and survived the kamikaze attacks of the Venezuelan powerpuncher. In the 10th, a hook dropped Pedroza, and he was counted out at the 1:08 mark. The winner was ahead on all three cards at the time of the stoppage. Referee: Neumann.

Teenager Ed Hopson, 130, St. Louis, 9-0 (4), scored a TKO at 1:26 of the first round over Willie Richardson, 140, Mobile, Alabama, 4-3. Scheduled for six. Referee: Rafael Ramos.

Local product Levander Johnson, 138, 10-0-1 (6), survived a shootout to stop Luis Castillo, 140, Brooklyn, 4-6 (3), at 1:10 of the second round. Referee: Ramos.

In a dull fight, Roberto Guzman, 155, Paterson, 2-0 (1), scored a majority four-round decision over Andrew Lamar, 155, New York City, who made his pro debut. Referee: Ramos.

Promoters: Madison Square Garden, Main Events
Undercard Judges: Frank Cairo, Frank Brunette, Debra Barnes
Television: HBO (main event only)
(1-19-91)

Steve Farhood

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY—On the undercard of Terry Norris' victory over Sugar Ray Leonard, heavyweight contender **Orlin Norris**, 214, Campo, California, 28-2 (13), battered punching bag **Jamie Howe**, 219, Grelton, Ohio, 15-13-1 (8), until referee Wayne Kelly stopped the beating at 2:17 of the seventh round; scheduled for 10. Norris, the older brother of Terry Norris, won every round. Kelly issued a standing eight-count seconds before stopping the mismatch. Considering how rarely the Garden presents boxing cards, you'd think the undercard might have offered something more worthwhile than this.

The return of the Bronx' Alex Ramos, 161, 30-9-2 (18), was ruined by Brooklyn's Segundo Mercado, 163, 10-1 (7), who outboxed the former contender en route to a TKO victory at 1:07 of the fourth round. Referee Luis Rivera issued a standing eight-count to the slow and badly faded Ramos in round three. Mercado is on a roll; in his previous bout, he had upset Adam Garland.

Willie Monroe, 161, Ithaca, New York, 17-1-1 (12), outslicked trialhorse Genaro Castro, 163, Queens, 11-6 (9), and scored a unanimous 10-round decision. Scores: 100-90 (twice) and 100-89. Monroe, who is handled by Mickey Duff, controlled the bout with a classy jab. Referee: Luis Rivera.

Prospect Irving Pierre Louis, 120¼, Brooklyn, 5-0 (2), scored a unanimous six-round decision over George Young, 119, Catskill, 4-4. Referee: Kelly.

Another touted prospect, Juan "El Flaco" Negron, 129¼, Newark, New Jersey, 9-0 (7), scored a unanimous but unimpressive six-round decision over Bruce Flippins, 129, Detroit, 3-4-3 (3). Negron is among the tallest, skinniest junior lightweights we've ever seen.

Physician: Dr. Barry Jordan
Judges (undercard): George Colon, George DeFaris, Carol Castellano
TV: Showtime
Attendance: 6,639
(2-9-91)

Steve Farhood

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH—Civic Areana—Kronkster **Michael Moorer**, 175, totally dominated **Danny Stonewalker**, 174¼, Ft. McMurray, Alberta, 16-5-1 (11), en route to a TKO at 11 seconds of the eighth round. Referee: Frank Cappuccino. Moorer is 22-0 (22).

Unheralded Leeonzer Barber, 175, Detroit, TKO'd Jim MacDonald, 174, Flint, Michigan, at 17 seconds of the third. Referee: Ernie Sharif.

Kronk's Gerald McClellan, 163½, Detroit, kayoed Danny Mitchell, 168, Pittsburgh, with a screaming right at 2:37 of the first. Referee: "Biff" Baer.

Localite Tom Alexander, 149½, dropped Lee Smith, 151, Findley, Ohio, in the first, but then got more than he wanted, including a badly cut left eye, as Smith went all the way in a great fight. Smith was in trouble again in the final round, as Alexander pulled out a deserved but costly eight-round unanimous decision. Referee: Rick Steigerwald.

Eric Podolak, 140, Pittsburgh, had to work hard for a six-round unanimous win over fireplug Oscar Washington, 142, Cincinnati. Referee: Baer.

Mike McGrady, 195, Butler, kayoed Curtis Gibson, 206, Cincinnati, at 2:25 of the first. Referee: Steigerwald.

Cornelius McClellan, 177, Erie, edged Kelly Bell, 176, Pittsburgh, by split decision in a free-swinging four. Referee: Sharif.

Dave Wolf's new find, lefty Lennard Jackson, 161, New York City, TKO'd David Graham, 158, Cincinnati, at 1:45 of the first. Referee: Sharif.

Promoters: Frank Chiodo, Frank DeLuca, Bill Kozerski
Matchmaker: Tommy Vacca
Judges: Paddy Grimes, Bill McConkey, Chuck Williams, Sherman McBride
Attendance: 1,800 (estimated)
(12-15-90)

J.R. Jowett

SOUTH CAROLINA

LEXINGTON—Stanick Gym—**Don Williams**, 159, Aiken, 7-2, dropped late replacement **James Barrow**, 156½, Shelby, North Carolina, three times for a first-round TKO.

David Smith, 159, Cayce, 0-1, lost a split decision to George Brunson, 152, Charlotte, North Carolina.

In the best fight of the night, Mike Belton, 187, Columbia, dropped Eddie Curry, 185, Lancaster, twice and won by disqualification when Curry repeatedly hit low.

Stanley Hughey, 182, Columbia, stopped Steve Gossett, 180, Spartanburg, at 1:07 of the second round.

Kenny Myers 218, Columbia, fought to a four-round technical draw with Michael Slavin, 250, Gastonia, North Carolina.

Scott Johnson, 155, Valley Falls, TKO'd Marvin Clowney, 148, Spartanburg, in the second round of a scheduled four.

After a tough first round, Bobby Arthurs, 191, Aiken, dropped Willie Daniel, 189, Shelby, North Carolina, twice en route to a second-round TKO.
(1-19-91)

Frank Whitecotton

TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS—The Omni New Daisey Theartre—**Dan Ward**, 196, West Memphis, Arkansas, 13-1, totally dominated **Rick Wallace**, 203, St. Louis, en route to a 10-round unanimous decision. Scores: 100-92, 98-93, and 100-90.

Freddie Ladd, 149, West Memphis, 9-0, stopped Johnny Alford, 157, McCroy, Arkansas, at 2:39 of the second round; middleweights.

Ken Hulsey, 159, Lynchburg, Tennessee, stopped Chester Jackson, 170, Osceola, Arkansas, at 42 seconds of the third round; middleweights.

Scotty Smith, 170, Little Rock, Arkansas,

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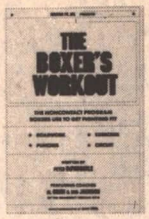

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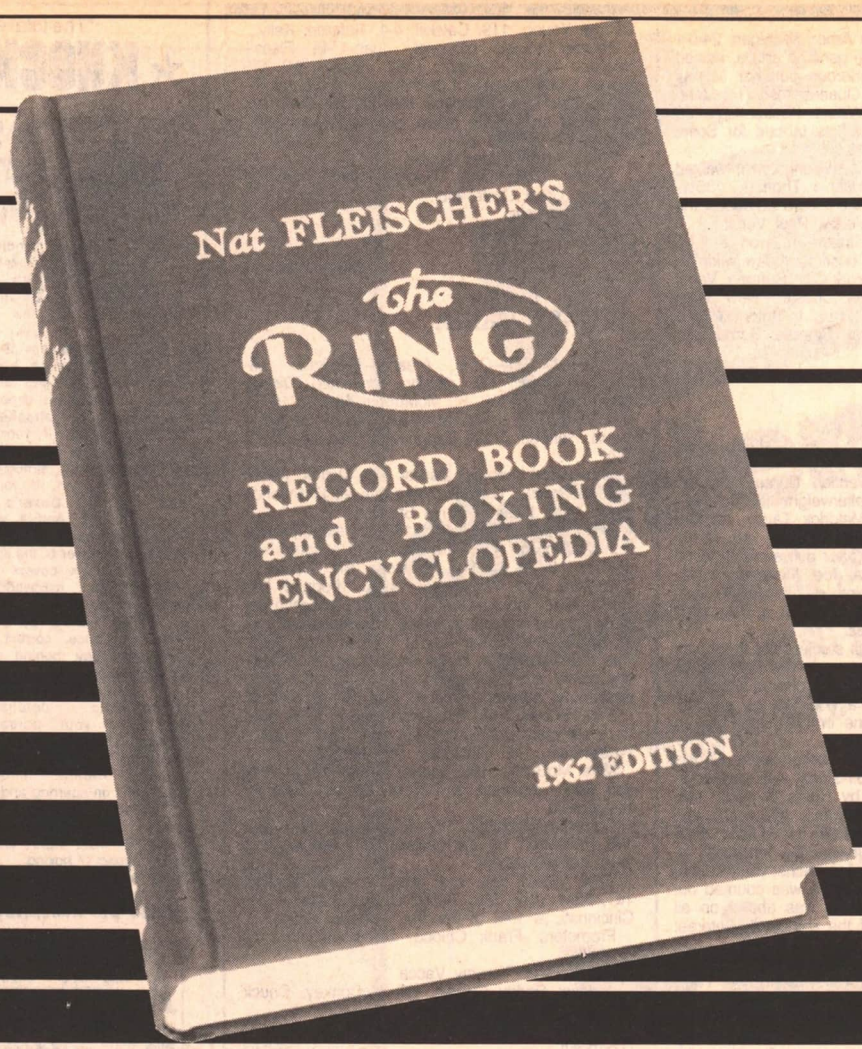

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pounded out a four-round unanimous decision over Stanley White, 174, Memphis; middleweights.

Lennard Jackson, 162, New York City, won a four-round unanimous decision over Eric French, 172, Memphis; middleweights.

Anthony Wade, 262, New York City, outpointed Keith St. Clare, 198, Indianapolis, over four rounds.

Promoters: Tom Harmon, Mid South Boxing
Matchmaker: Red Fortner
Judges: Ken Roach, Jim Denny, Tim Dwyer, Parnell Dwyer, Alex McCollum, Jim Harber
Referees: Sam Garland, Sonny Bauman
Physician: Dr. Susan Lindsey
Attendance: 600 (estimated)
(2-5-91)

Michael Glenn

LAVERGNE—Lavergne High School—**Ken "Bull" Atkin**, 173, Smyrna, 10-3 (5), stopped **John Simmons**, 168, Memphis, 8-2, at 48 seconds of the second; scheduled for 10.

Loren Ross, 208, Nashville, 19-1 (13), dropped Robert "Rodney" Thomas, 200, Memphis, 30-13-5, five times en route to a second-round TKO.

Former National Golden Gloves champion Buddy West, 127, Nashville, 3-1 (3), hit ancient Simmie Black, 132, Little Rock, 12-5 (3), with everything in his arsenal before finally stunning him with a straight right midway through the fourth round and downing him with a left hook. Black, an obviously spent, albeit game and entertaining fighter, arose and asked for more, but was wisely waved off at 2:33.

Kenneth Bentley, 200, Chattanooga, 38-21 (19), dropped a four-round unanimous decision to J.R. Spears, 213, LaVergne, 8-5-1.

Don Wilford, 150, Nashville, 3-0, won a shutout four-round decision over Tommy Jeans, 155, Memphis, 15-11.

Lennard Jackson, 160, New York City, 3-0, stopped Tim Moore, 152, Nashville, 1-2, at 1:39 of the first round.

Weakened by the flu, Tim Johnson, 175, Nashville, 2-1, suffered his first pro loss, a majority decision to the savvy and seasoned Roy Bedwell, 180, Lexington, 24-8.

Promoter & Matchmaker: Kerry Pharr
Referees: Kenneth Thomas, Jeffrey Chase
Judges: Danny Jones, Jeff Thomas, Jeff Tomerlain, William Greenlee
Physicians: Dr. John Burns, Dr. Gary Swartz
Attendance: 500 (estimated)
(2-9-91)

Jeff Pennig

TEXAS

SAN ANTONIO—Hemisfair Arena—Local contender **Jesse James Leija**, 128½, took another step toward a possible world ranking with a lopsided 10-round unanimous decision over **Felipe DeJesus**, 130, Los Angeles. Leija spent the first three rounds adjusting to DeJesus' southpaw style, then controlled the last half of the fight.

DeJesus, 33-8 (22), landed several good body shots in the early rounds, but Leija started to counter with punishing combinations to the head. By the sixth round, both of DeJesus' eyes were swelling, and he started to get careless. Leija, 16-0-1 (10), almost put DeJesus away in the final round, but the bell saved him from a knockdown. Leija won convincingly on all cards.

After a sluggish first round, Juan Baldwin, 131, Odessa, exploded in the second to score a TKO over Steve Whetstone, 129½, Homestead, Florida. Baldwin, 10-1 (8), floored Whetstone, 31-14-1 (26), twice in the second round with quick, chopping blows to the head and a barrage of body shots before referee Vince Amaya stopped the bout.

Oscar Pena, 169, San Antonio, 10-6-1 (8), shocked Terrance Walker, 173¼, Houston, 9-10-1 (9), with two devastating right crosses that sent Walker face-first to the canvas in the first round.

Richard Salazar, 127, Corpus Christi, 5-1-2, won a hard-fought six-round unanimous decision over San Antonio's Noel Cruz, 124, 4-2-1 (1).

Conrad Sanchez, 124½, Austin, 2-2, dominated Robert Sandoval, 124¼, Kingsville, 2-4, for an easy four-round unanimous decision.

Alex Rios, 156, San Antonio, made an impressive pro debut with a knockout of Miguel Barcenas, 154, Corpus Christi, 5-2, at 1:05 of the first round.

Promoter: Main Events
Physicians: Dr. Joe Gonzales, Dr. Paul Saenz
Referees: Steve Jaramillo, Vince Amaya
Judges: Leonard Zuniga, Wilfredo Esperon, Bobby Wells
Attendance: 1,725
TV: SportsChannel America
(1-7-91)

CORPUS CHRISTI—Memorial Coliseum—San Antonio's **Rafael Ortega** turned a tuneup into a serious scare for world-ranked localite **Jesse Benavides**. Ortega, 123½, floored Benavides, 123, in the first round and dominated the early rounds. But Benavides, 32-1 (24), finished strong to win a close unanimous decision in 10 rounds. Ortega is 13-6 (5).

Ranked second by the WBC and IBF in the junior featherweight division, Benavides overcame his slow start with a strong performance in the final four rounds. Benavides had Ortega struggling against the ropes in the ninth and 10th, and it was those final two rounds that saved the victory. Ruben Garcia scored 97-93, John Whitley 97-94, and Lawrence Cole 95-94. *The Ring* scored 97-94 for Benavides.

Another Corpus Christi native and former world-ranked contender, Lupe Suarez, 136½, scored an impressive TKO over Edgar Garcia, 136¼, at 1:46 of the second round. It was Suarez' first appearance since his title-fight loss to John-John Molina in Atlantic City a year ago. Suarez is 29-3 (24); Garcia 27-9.

The WBC's top-ranked featherweight, Ricardo Cepeda, 126½, New York, 20-0-1, had no trouble during his third-round TKO of Tony Duran, 128¼, Denver, 11-6.

Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson, 127½, Detroit, 22-1-1 (15), rebounded from his thrilling but disappointing draw against Troy Dorsey with a fifth-round TKO of Silvestre Castillo, 128¼, Mexico, 19-4 (8).

Danny Trevino, 161¾, Fort Worth, 15-2, overpowered Lorenzo Thomas, 160¼, Dallas, 4-7, via fourth-round TKO.

Juan Aldape, 137, Corpus Christi, 2-2-1, scored a TKO over Salvador Carrillo, 138, at 33 seconds of the fourth and final round.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden
Referees: Santos Ronje, David Avalos
Attendance: 2,548
TV: MSG Network
(1-25-91)

Curtis Vogel

EL PASO—Civic Center—Promoter Richard Tonn hooked up **Fernie Morales** (number six) and **Eddie Rangel** (number eight) as the leading available contenders for the vacant NABF bantamweight title. Both were coming off losses, but they battled hard for 12 rounds, with Morales earning a unanimous decision.

Morales, 117, El Paso, 28-4 (12), dominated early, using a quick jab and movement. Rangel, 117½, San Antonio, 24-7-2 (15), missed often and couldn't slow down his foe. He absorbed several overhand rights in the sixth, seventh, and eighth rounds, but rallied in the ninth, 10th, and 11th, landing uppercuts and fighting well off the ropes. The last 90 seconds of the 12th was all action, and at the final bell, the fighters were exhausted and draped over each other.

Scoring: Ilas Quintana, 115-113, Vince Amaya, 117-111, and Alan McChesney, 118-111. *The Ring* scored 118-111 for Morales. Morales was penalized for a second-round low blow by referee Lawrence Cole.

Alfred Rangel won by TKO when Miguel Torres refused to leave his stool for round seven. The world-ranked Rangel, 132, San Antonio, 22-6 (13), won every round. Torres dropped to a reported 32-13.

Ross Puritty, 248, El Paso, TKO'd Jose Cruz Avila, 232, Juarez, Mexico, at 32 seconds of the first round. A right to the body by Puritty, 4-3, sent Avila, 4-3-1, through the ropes. He climbed back in, but referee Juan Lazcano determined he was in no shape to continue.

Angel Adame, 124½, San Antonio, won by TKO at 2:16 of the first round over debuting Oscar Sanchez, 126½, El Paso. Adame, 3-0, dropped Sanchez twice.

Govenor Chavers, 178, San Antonio, won by TKO at 1:11 of the first round over Armando Hurtado, 178, Sonora, Mexico. Chavers, 9-0, scored three knockdowns over Hurtado, 5-3.

Attendance: 1,200 (estimated)
(2-3-91)

Bruce Williams

WASHINGTON

FIFE—Excutive Inn—**Joe Hipp**, 241, Federal Way, won the WBF Intercontinental heavyweight championship by stopping **Mike Cohen**, 216, Hilton Head, South Carolina, at 2:30 of the fourth round in a scheduled 12. Cohen, 30-17, has seen his share of ring wars, but couldn't survive trading blows with the hard-hitting Hipp.

Hipp, 18-1 (17), dominated every round with ex-

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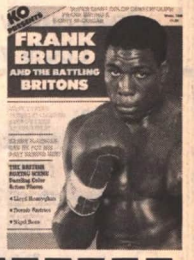

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plosive hooks and straight rights. A fourth-round right sent Cohen falling through the ropes and onto the press tables.

In a scheduled four, Antonio Ocasio, 205½, Tacoma, stopped Latu Hafoka, 180, Dillard, Oregon, at 1:10 of the first. Ocasio is 1-3; Hafoka 1-1.

In a scheduled four, Harvey Pina, 138, Union Gap, 1-2, stopped Steve Sterling, 137, Yakima, 0-3-1, on a TKO in the second round.

Jamie Ollenberger, 158½, North Vancouver, British Columbia, continued his winning ways by stopping Mike Kipp, 155¼, Burnaby, at 1:52 of the fourth of a scheduled four. Ollenberger is 18-4-1; Kipp 4-3.

Lance Holcomb, 126½, Everitt, scored an exciting victory by stopping Ed Ko, 125¼, Lake City, 0-1, at 1:12 of the first of a scheduled four. Holcomb, 4-1, looks to have a promising future.

Promoter: NW Boxing Enterprises
Matchmaker: Bruce Siebol
Referees: Jim Reilly, Bobby Howard
Judges: Pat McCurty, Tom McDonough, Forie Pignataro
Attendance: 615
(1-14-91)

Bill Tuthill

PUERTO RICO

HATO REY—Pedrin Zorilla Coliseum—**Josue "Dickie" Camacho**, 8-1, faced **Cesar Acevedo**, 3-4-1, for the island junior flyweight title. A win would have assured Camacho an eventual title match with WBO champion Jose DeJesus. But a right to jaw dropped Camacho early in the 12th session, and although he beat the count, he received a followup volley of unanswered blows to the head, forcing referee Wiso Fernandez to call a halt.

Acevedo, a recent loser to Camacho, appeared to be a loser after eight heats of cautious boxing, but he came from behind after a give-and-take ninth round to take command.

Juan "Kalule" Rosario scored a dull points win over Carlos Velez, 147. Referee Falu-Quinones warned both fighters for lack of action.

Welterweight Luis Apellaniz scored a three-round kayo over Luis Benitez.

Featherweight Juan Badillo looked good in scoring a first-round knockout over Samuel Concepcion.

Bantamweight Joey Borrero scored a four-round decision over Luis Yampier.

In the best fight of the night, featherweight Carlos Hernandez edged Wilfredo Sandoval in four hotly contested give-and-take sessions.

Promoter: Howard Class-Hot Boxing
Attendance: 400 (estimated)
(12-12-90)

HUMACAO—Emilio Huyke Coliseum—Another undefeated fighter experienced the year-end-blues when **Jose "Pancho" Rodriguez**, 128, 9-0, suffered a stunning third-round kayo loss at the hands of **Daniel Jimenez**, 133. Referee Wiso-Fernandez stopped the bout when Rodriquez appeared helpless against the ropes after accepting a two-fisted barrage. Last-minute sub Jimenez improved to 9-3. He benefited greatly from his weight advantage.

In a co-feature 10, former world junior middleweight champion Carlos Santos returned after a year's layoff and scored an easy three-round kayo over Miami's Clinton Mack. Santos looked good, finishing Mack with a solid shot to the midsection.

Lightweight Carlos Mendez scored a three-round TKO over Jose "Cheo" Collazo.

Featherweight Miguel Rodriguez won in six over Juan Delgado Ocasio.

Promoter: Ismael Garcia
Attendance: 250
(12-15-90)

Mario Rivera Martino

MEXICO

MEXICO CITY—**Josefino Suarez** won a 10-round split decision over **Francisco Gonzalez**; super flyweights. Suarez, rated fourth in Mexico, raised to 18-2. The eighth-ranked Gonzalez dropped to 41-8-2. The scorecards: 98-94, and 96-95, and 95-96. Suarez was cut in the third, but rebounded that same round to hurt his opponent with a big right and solid combinations. Suarez controlled the action from round six to round eight. Gonzalez came on late, hurting Suarez just before the final bell. The winner was forced to battle with a swollen left eye from the fifth round on.

Ladislao Vazquez took a unanimous 10-round decision from Juan Gonzalez; mini flyweights. The scores: 97-95, 98-93, and 98-94. Vazquez was saved by the bell in the seventh after he went down from what appeared to be a left, but was ruled a

slip. Vazquez also had a point deducted in the eighth round for head butting.

Ignacio Aguilar scored a fourth-round TKO over Luis Lara in a scheduled six-rounder; flyweights.

Abel Hinojosa scored a TKO at 1:59 of the fifth round over Benjamin Aragon in a scheduled six-rounder; bantamweights. The undeafeated Hinojosa is 9-0.

Manuel Tellez won a four-decision over Joaquin Medellin; lightweights.
(12-1-90)

LAZARO CARDENAS—Javier Leon scored an eighth-round TKO over **Cesar Decenas**; bantamweights. Leon looked good in his tuneup for Victor Rabanales, whom he will meet in the final of the Forum bantamweight tournament in early-1991.

Edgar Decenas decisioned Pedro Diaz; flyweights.

Jorge Lopez knocked out Jose Hernandez in the first round; lightweights.

Jose Mata registered a second-round kayo over Ismael Gutierriez; super lightweights.

Fidel Rios scored a fourth-round kayo over Fidel Diaz; lightweights.
(12-7-90)

MEXICO CITY—Armando Salazar won a majority decision over **Conception Velazquez** in a 10-round bantamweight fight. Salazar, the WBC Continental Americas super flyweight champion and number-one contender of Mexico, stepped up in weight and was troubled by Velazquez. Salazar, 24-3-3 (18), got the nod by scores of 98-92, 98-93, and 96-96. Velazquez gave a good account until the seventh, when Salazar's power helped him take command.

Aaron Zarate scored a seventh-round TKO over Luis Garcia in a scheduled 10-round lightweight bout.

Raul Hernandez knocked out Gilberto Flores in the second of an eight-round lightweight bout.

Marco Antonio Barrera decisioned Ivan Salazar in a six-round super flyweight bout.

Ivan Martinez decisioned David Celis in a four-round flyweight battle.
(12-8-90)

CELAYA—German Torres knocked out **Tony "Kid" Vega** in the second of scheduled 10-round mini flyweight bout. An uppercut by the former WBC junior flyweight champion ended the mismatch.

Ruben Olivares and Pipino Cuevas put on seperate exhibitions on the farce of an undercard. Humberto Gonzalez was advertised to appear, but didn't.
(12-8-90)

TIJUANA—Jesus Salud scored a TKO over **Hector Diaz** at 2:53 of the seventh round in a 10-round junior featherweight fight. Former WBA champion Salud dominated, as late sub Diaz was overmatched.

Luis Ramon Campas stopped Luis Francisco Perez in the fourth of a 10-round welterweight bout. Campos, Mexico's number-three welterweight, stayed unbeaten despite the efforts of a tougher-than-expected Perez, who was cut on the right eyelid in the third round. The cut led to the stoppage.

Cuauhtemoc Gomez scored a split decision over Jose Quirino in a 10-round flyweight encounter. Gomez, 20-0 (16), was barley able to outpunch veteran Quirino.

Andres Sandoval knocked out Moises Perches in the first round of a scheduled 10-round lightweight encounter.

Former world title challenger Ramzi Hassan scored a first-round TKO over veteran Marcos Geraldo in a 10-round light heavyweight bout.
(12-10-90)

JUAREZ—Jose de Jesus Garcia stopped **Efrain Pintor** 13 seconds into the fifth of a scheduled 10-round super bantamweight bout. Garcia, who represented Mexico in the 1988 Olympics, raised to 15-0-1 (13). Pintor fell to 46-9 (38). The 22-year-old Garcia chopped up Pintor's face with combinations and jabs. Pintor left the ring with his left eye swollen shut and cuts around both eyebrows. The doctor gave Pintor's face a long look in the fourth, but let the fight continue. The 28-year-old Pintor was floored later in the round, but managed to survive. When he was floored again a round later, the fight was stopped.

Oscar Calzada knocked out Victor Hernandez at 1:07 of the first round in a 10-round mini flyweight bout. Calzada, 11-1 (8), was making his first appearance since his August loss to Michael Carbajal. Hernandez, 15-3 (12), dominated early, then was caught and dropped by a left to the jaw. Referee Ramon Flores counted Hernandez out, although he seemed to rise before 10 and wanted to fight on. The crowd responded by throwing debris.

Alberto Cepeda took a unanimous eight-round decision over Javier Ibarra in a bantamweight contest. Cepeda dropped Ibarra in the first with a left to the jaw. From there it was a good battle, fought mostly in the center of the ring.

Rene Herrera, 3-0 (2), kayoed Leobardo Cruz at 2:36 of the third in a scheduled six-round welterweight bout.

Jose Zamora stopped Raul Martinez in the second round of a scheduled six-round super lightweight fight.
(12-14-90)

LOS MOCHIS—Alejandro Felix Montiel knocked out former world champion **German Torres** in the 10th and final round of their mini flyweight battle. The undefeated Montiel dropped Torres in the eighth, and put him down for good two rounds later. It was Torres' first loss since he began his comeback.

Antonio Flores scored a fifth-round kayo over Ruben Gutierrez; bantamweights.

Jesus Javier Arce decisioned Justo Tenrio; featherweights.

Lupe Beltran scored a fourth-round kayo Silvestre Peraza; bantamweights.
(12-14-90)

MINATITLAN—Tony Wilson took a unanimous 12-round decision over **Diego Avila** to win the vacant Mexican bantamweight title. Wilson, ranked seventh in the Mexican super flyweight ratings, won the tough battle with his youth and drive. Avila, ranked number-seven in the Mexican ratings, had trouble making the weight. The title became vacant when Candelario Carmona decided to challenge for a world title.

Wilfrido Urbina took a split decision over Rey Hernandez in a 10-round mini flyweight contest.
(12-15-90)

GUADALAJARA—Alberto Martinez took a unanimous 12-round decision over **Raul Martinez Mora** to retain the Mexican super bantamweight title. It was the second defense for Martinez, 40-10-2. Mora, 21-2-1, suffered a ruptured ear drum. The

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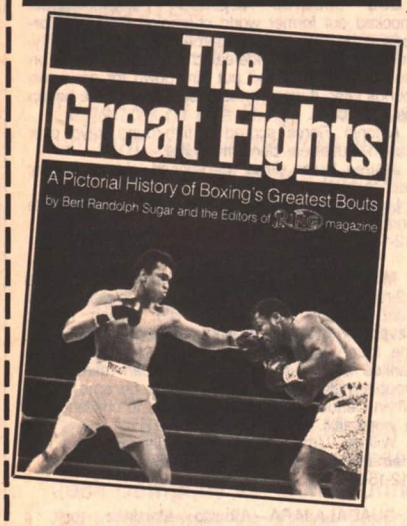

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judges scored 116-113, 116-112, and 117-112, though it seemed a lot closer.

Javier Jauregui scored a fourth-round TKO over Carlos Monroy in a 10-round super bantamweight bout.

Juan Carlos Rodriguez upset Oscar Gallegos, stopping him in the seventh of a 10-round super featherweight bout.
(12-15-90)

MAZATLAN—Marco Antonio Lizarraga won a 10-round decision over **Primo Ramos**; super lightweights. Mexican champion Lizarraga proved that he is a world-class fighter by beating a world-ranked foe. Ramos' camp complained that their fighter was on the wrong end of a hometown decision.

Javier Rivera knocked out Dario Lopez in the third round; featherweights.

Ramon Felix kayoed Margarito Corona in the second round; featherweights.

IBF featherweight champion Jorge Paez fought an exhibition with Miguel Angel Pena.
(12-21-90)

ACAPULCO—Armando Castro stopped **Javier Lucas** at 2:30 of the fifth round of a scheduled 12 and retained the Mexican super flyweight title. Castro, 39-8-1 (28), kept the title for the second time. The world-ranked Lucas gave the champion a tough battle, but Castro was in better shape and outbombed his challenger with uppercuts. The referee stopped the fight to save a defenseless Lucas.

Fidel Avendano scored a second-round TKO over Javier Sanchez in a 10-round lightweight bout. Avendano had little trouble with the late sub.

Alejandro Gonzalez stopped Raul Gutierrez in the first of a 10-round super bantamweight bout. The loser was dropped three times.

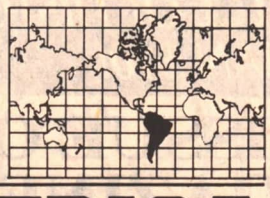
Atanasio Villarreal scored a fifth-round TKO over Juilo Anendano in a 10-round super bantamweight bout.

Miguel Lopez scored a unanimous six-round decision over Miguel Rodriguez; super bantamweights.

Alfredo Virgen knocked out Arturo Escobar in the first round of a scheduled six-round flyweight encounter.

Silverio Olivas, secretary of the Acapulco Boxing Commission, as well as a former fighter and manager, was the special honoree during the card.
(12-22-90)

Bruce Williams



SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

BUENOS AIRES—Argentine middleweight champion **Ruben Dario Cabral**, 160, scored a unanimous 12-round decision over **Eduardo Contreras**, 159½. Scores: 117-113, 119-115, and 116-114.
(12-8-90)

MENDOZA—Pedro Villegas, 127, posted a 10-round decision over former Argentine bantamweight champion and world title challenger **Lucio "Machine Gun" Lopez**, 127. Last May, Villegas floored reigning WBC 122-pound champion and countryman Pedro Decima twice before losing a close decision.
(12-8-90)

SALTA—South American welterweight champion **Miguel Arroyo** scored a sixth-round kayo of **Jorge Martinez**.
(12-8-90)

NEUQUEN—Jesus Gil stopped **Julio David Gomez**, who quit in the sixth round; welterweights.
(12-8-90)

BUENOS AIRES—Argentine Boxing Federation Stadium—**Fabian Chancalay**, 147, kayoed **Roberto Medina**, 142, in the second round. The winner is 5-3 (4); Medina 11-2 (4). The bout was nationally televised.
(12-9-90)

CORDOBA—Club General Paz Juniors—**Osvaldo Corro**, 134, the brother of former world middleweight champion Hugo Corro, captured the national lightweight title with a 12th-round stoppage of formerly unbeaten powerpunching southpaw **Fabian Tejeda**, 134. It was a tremendous battle. Tejeda remains the South American 135-pound champion. At the time of the stoppage, Tejeda was badly cut and unable to reply to Corro's attack. Referee Eduardo Barrios intervened. Corro, 24-1-2 (9), was ahead on all cards after 11 rounds. Tejeda fell to 23-1 (22).

Attendance: 4,500 (estimated)
(12-1-3-90)

SALTA—Paraguayan welterweight champion **Francisco Bobadilla** decisioned **Lorenzo Garcia** over 10 rounds in a non-title bout.
(12-14-90)

PEHUAJO—Former national junior welterweight champion **Hugo "Little Bird" Hernandez** rose from first- and second-round knockdowns to score a dramatic seventh-round TKO over **Juan Alberto Contreras**.

Attendance: 1,000 (estimated)
(12-14-90)

POSADAS—Luis Alberto Ocampo, 120, won the South American bantamweight title with a 12-round unanimous decision over **Raul Alberto Loblein**, 118. Scores: 118-114, 118-112, and 118-111.

Paraguay's Sixto Vera, 110, outpointed Javier Lopez, 111.
(12-14-90)

EMBALSE, CORDOBA—Argentine super bantamweight champion **Sergio Liendo**, 123, scored a majority 10-round decision over former national champion **Ruben Condori**, 122½, in a non-title bout. Scores: 99-97, 98-97, and 99-99.

Gustavo Rodriguez outpointed Victor Marin over eight rounds; welterweights.
(12-14-90)

CANUELAS—Canuelas Futbol Club—Former WBA junior welterweight champion **Juan Martin Coggi**, 144, unanimously outpointed **Nestor Gil**, 144½, over 10 rounds. It was a clear victory for the southpaw, who is seeking a title-fight rematch with conqueror Loreto Garza. Referee: Eduardo Barrios.
(12-21-90)

CAMATARCA—Argentine flyweight champion **Hugo Rafael Soto**, 113, edged former two-time world champion **Santos Laciar**, 116, over 10 rounds in a non-title bout. Laciar was dropped in the 10th round.

Attendance: 5,000 (estimated)
(12-21-90)

SANTA CRUZ—Club Hispanoamericano—Argentine and South American junior middleweight champion **Jorge Fernando Castro**, 160, kayoed Panamanian **Felipe Molinar**, 160, in the fourth round of a non-title bout.
(12-21-90)

TRELEW, CHUB—Argentine featherweight champion **Miguel Francia**, 126, successfully defended the title by winning a 12-round unanimous decision over **Jose Sosa**, 126.
(12-21-90)

Carlos Irusta

GUYANA

GEORGETOWN—National Sports Hall—**Barrington Cambridge**, 146, dished out a lesson in boxing to **Michael Benjamin**, 147, and regained the welterweight title which he had previously lost to Benjamin by TKO. The aggression of Benjamin, 16-3-2, which was fortified by heavy hooks, was effectively thwarted by the composed Cambridge, 17-4-1, who jabbed and countered out of trouble. Cambridge, hampered by a balloon-like swelling of his left jaw from the fourth round on, boxed beautifully to take a majority decision. *The Ring* scored 118-112 for Cambridge.

Joseph Murray, 126, displayed good accuracy and punching power to win the national featherweight title when he outpunched a game but defenseless Lalta Narine, 124. The referee came to Narine's rescue after he suffered his second knockdown in the fourth round and was helpless on the ropes. Murray is 11-1; Narine 9-5.

Anthony "The Pearle" Andrews, 145, showed some measure of his old class when he

powerpunched his way to a ninth-round TKO over Pascal David, 147. The referee waved the contest over to save David from further punishment at the end of the ninth round. Andrews is 12-6; David 3-2.

Wayne Briggs, 126, upped to 7-7 when he was given an undeserved split decision over Ian Bancroft, 130, 2-1.

Director of Bouts: Frederick Ramprashad
Physician: Dr. Max Hanoman
Referees & Judges: Eion Jardine, Trevor Arno, Harold Duncan, Andrew Thorne, Ulric Busby, Sydney Cummings
(12-26-90)

Will R. Boodhoo

FRENCH GUYANA

CAYENNE—National Hall of Sports—**Jacobin Yoma** stopped **Cristino Suero**, Santo Domingo, with a short right to the jaw at 1:09 of the fifth round to win the Central American and Caribbean super featherweight title. Suero, 10-5, showed good footwork, handspeed, and combinations. But Yoma, 11-0-1 (6), was more accurate and landed the harder punches, which took a cumulative effect.

American Jessie Torres, 11-5, had little trouble with Manuel Rodriguez, Santo Domingo, 12-6. Rodriguez could not handle the pressure that Torres applied and quit at the end of the fourth round; junior lightweights.

Lawrence Leonce, Guyana, 3-0, TKO'd Frenchman Dominque Faliva, 3-4, in a scheduled six-rounder; middleweights.

Ray Albert, Cayenne, 11-4, dominated Perfecto Gonzales, 7-2, en route to a six-round TKO; light heavyweights.
(1-18-91)

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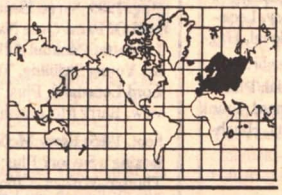

EUROPE

GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON—Royal Albert Hall—British heavyweight champion **Gary Mason**, 236, Wandsworth, made a successful return by way of a ninth-round stoppage of American **James Pritchard**, 201½. Mason had been out of action since March 1989, having undergone an operation to repair a detached retina. The layoff seemed to do him good, as he trained diligently and weighed less than 238 pounds for the first time in more than three years. He was also fighting under the Mickey Duff banner for the first time, having split with Terry Lawless.

Mason was naturally tentative and took a while to settle down. But he began dictating with a long, stiff jab followed by big crosses. Pritchard proved very durable, however. He even had the audacity to stagger Mason with a left and a right in round six. But Mason's superior power proved the deciding factor, and a big right landing in the ninth prompted referee Roy Coyle to intervene at the 2:09 mark.

Derek Grainger, 151½, Bethnal Green, outpointed Bristol's Chris Peters, 151, in an entertaining eight-rounder.

Jim Peters, 176¾, Southampton, stopped Cliff Curtis, 176, Swindon, via cut eye at 34 seconds of round one.

Henry Akinwande, 218, Lewisham, stopped Frenchman Francois Yrius, 200½, at 1:02 of the first of a scheduled six.

Swansea's Andy Robins, 139, halted Lyn Davies, 134½, Caerphilly, in the second round of an intended six. Referee Mike Jacobs intervened at the 55-second mark.

Michael Bent, 230½, a former New York Golden Gloves champion, knocked out fellow American James Holly at 1:08 of round one. It was a hideous mismatch.

Benfleet's Phil Soundy, 185½, stopped Swansea's Dave Haycock, 184, at 1:36 of round three of a scheduled six twos.

Billy Schiver, 134, Luton, halted Derry's Sean Casey, 134, at 1:26 of the first of a scheduled six twos.
(12-12-90)

Brian Doogan

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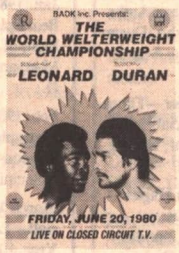

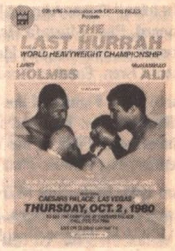

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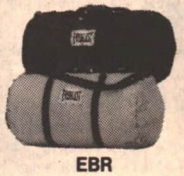

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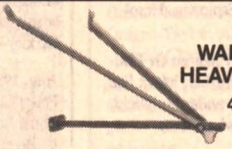

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GERMANY

GELSENKIRCHEN—In the last card of the year here, middleweight **Michael Kopzog**, 4-0, who had a glittering amateur career, scored a a six-round stoppage over Yugoslav **Mirsad Mahmutovic**.

Bernd Kulle looked a winner but got only a four-round draw against Frederick Porter; heavyweights.

African Paul Lee Sebowa kayoed Yugoslav Mehmed Zolic in the third; lightweights.

Promoter: Helmut Slomke
Attendance: 300 (estimated)
(12-21-90)

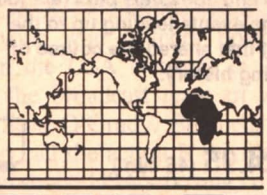
BERLIN—Elm Hall, Nord Suepplingen—In a bout for the International German super middleweight title, German **Andreas Schweiger**, ahead on points, snatched defeat from the jaws of victory when he ran into a right from Briton **Horace Fleary** in round nine and was counted out by referee Norbert Grosch. Schweiger reinjured his hand, which had previously needed surgery. It looks as if he will be out of action for some time. Fleary, an ex-Rhine Army soldier, has stayed in Germany.

Turk Niyazi Aytekin, who scored a major upset last year by kayoing undefeated middleweight champion Patrick Pipa, kayoed Yugoslav Tridmit Jandrik in seven rounds.

At cruiserweight, Mario Schiesser, 2-0, kayoed fellow German Bernd Kulle in the opening round.

Promoter: Dieter Schuster
Attendance: 700
(1-4-91)

Jack Tree



AFRICA

BENIN

COTONOU—Nazaire Kpadanou, 132, TKO'd **Isaac Nyaku**, 133, Ghana, in six rounds.

Soweto Aristide, 125, won an eight-round decision over Joe Michel, Ivory Coast, 125.

Georges Bocco, Benin, 165, stopped Marvelous Rank, 163, Ghana, in the second round.

Promoter: Ken Biddles Boxing Gym
Attendance: 1,930
(12-21-90)

BURKINA FASO

OUAGADOUGOU—Mamadou Pare, 27-2 (24), won a 12-round unanimous decision and the Afrian Boxing Confederation super bantamweight title from **Amani Bassey**, 121½, Nigeria.

Promoter: Francois Gansore
Referee: Kwesi de Fanti
Attendance: 1,700 (estimated)
(12-28-90)

Charles W. Biddle

SOUTH AFRICA

MORULA SUN—Aladin Stevens was just too clever for young challenger **Grant Messias**, as he scored a onesided 12-round decision to retain the South African lightweight title. The 31-year-old champion is 41-6-4; Messias 13-3-1.

Junior welterweight Danny Myburgh completely outclassed Lulamile Manqina to score an easy six-round decision.

Promoter: Rodney Berman
Attendance: 1,000
(11-22-90)

JOHANNESBURG—Nasrec Arena—In an epic battle, **Aaron Kabi** came back from a fourth-round knockdown to stop challenger **Luvuyo Kakaza** in the fifth round of a scheduled 12-rounder to retain the South African junior welterweight title. It was his first defense. The 30-year-old Kabi is 18-2-2; Kakaza 17-5.

South African junior middleweight champion Gregory Clark completely outclassed Johan Gumede before stopping him in the fifth round of a scheduled eight-rounder. Clark is 46-6; Gumede 10-8-1.
(11-25-90)

DURBAN—Red Cross Hall—South African junior heavyweight champion **Freddie Rafferty** outclassed **Gideon Hlongwa** before stopping him in two onesided rounds of a non-title fight.

Barry Mthembu retained the Natal bantamweight title with a fifth-round stoppage of Jabulani Malinga.

Promoter: Wayne Wesley-Smith
Attendance: 1,200
(12-3-90)

DURBAN—FNB Arena—Featherweight **Stanford Ngcebeshe** scored a convincing eighth-round TKO over **Michael Jiyane** despite suffering a bad cut above his left eye.

Bokkie Buys stopped Douglas Sibiya in the fourth round; junior heavyweights.

Welterweight Jacques Smith completely outclassed Partick Mthimkulu before Mthimkulu was disqualified in the eighth round for hitting his opponent after Smith had slipped to the canvas.

Promoter: Thinus Strydom
Attendance: 2,000 (estimated)
(12-8-90)

DURBAN—DLI Hall—Exciting light heavyweight prospect **Gary Ballard** stopped **Moses Mthama** in the second round with some terrific hooks and rights to the head.

Junior lightweight Danie Heyneke was outscored over six rounds by the more experienced Welile Vumsindo.

In a dull 10-rounder, Blessing Masinga retained the Natal middleweight title with a unanimous decision over Joel Matola.

Promoter: Maurice Owen
Attendance: 1,200 (estimated)
(12-10-90)

Ron Jackson

TOGO

LOME—Julius Obi, 147, Nigeria via Togo, outpointed **Ise Ade**, 149, Nigeria, over eight rounds.
Attendance: 250 (estimated)
(12-15-90)

LOME—Ayewoubo Akomatsri, 119, Togo, won a six-round unanimous decision over **George Freeman**, 117, Ghana.

Stainless Tony, a Nigerian boxing in Togo, 125, outpointed Rasta Ochoma, Nigeria, 124, over six rounds.

Jaffa Balogun, 156, Togo, 14-2 (13), kayoed Samson Agorkpor, Ghana, 155½, in five rounds to win the ABC super welterweight title.

Promoter: Ken Biddles Gym
Referee: Apedo Amah
Attendance: 724
(12-29-90)

Charles W. Biddle

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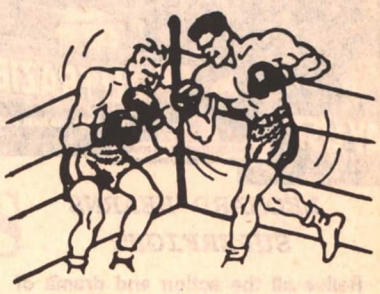

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THE RUMBLE IN THE JUNGLE

Muhammad Ali is 32, twice beaten, and facing a 25-year-old undefeated destroyer in George Foreman. It's October 30, 1974, and "The Greatest" is once again a heavy underdog. But utilizing the heat of the Zaire jungle to his advantage, Ali "rope-a-dopes" the champion into exhaustion and puts him away with a five-punch combination in the eighth round. Bob Sheridan called the live action.

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ALI-FRAZIER

THE THRILLA IN MANILLA

Muhammad Ali called his slugfest with Joe Frazier in the Phillipines the closest he's ever come to death. Once again, Frazier forced the action, but Ali didn't give an inch in the third-and best- of their three bouts. Before the start of the 15th round, Frazier's trainer, Eddie Futch, refused to let his battered warrior fight on. Don Dunphy called the live action.

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This NBC sports special presentation, hosted by Marv Albert and Ferdie Pacheco, includes Dempsey-Willard (round One), Louis-Schmeling(round one), Marciano-Walcott (round 13), and Ali-Foreman (round eight). Studio panelists Don Dunphy, Angelo Dundee, George Benton, and Archie Moore offer their insights and recollections of these historic boxing moments.

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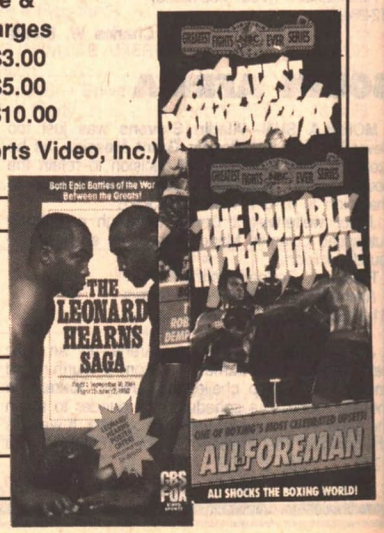


IN THIS CORNER

BRAD JACOBS
(TV Consultant)

By Ken Knox

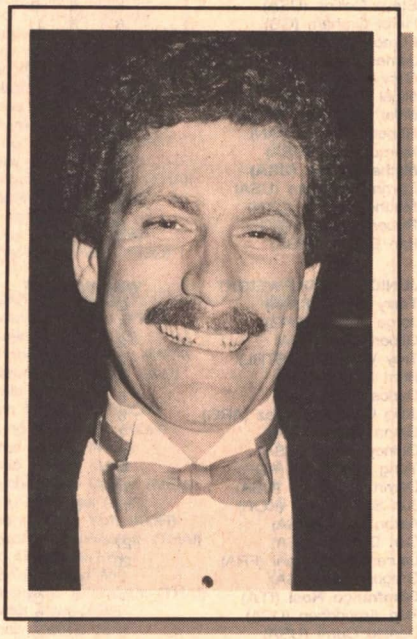
Anyone who watches boxing on the USA Network is familiar with the broadcast team of Al Albert and Sean O'Grady. But behind the men who call the action is the man who calls the shots, USA's boxing consultant, Brad Jacobs.

Jacobs, 32, has been with USA for four years. He is responsible for selecting which shows the networks will televise. He evaluates the marquee value of the shows and negotiates with promoters over prices, undercards, locations, and dates. (Unlike USA, most cable networks, like ESPN, Prime Ticket, and the Madison Square Garden network, deal with a single promoter.) He also coordinates the productions on-site and serves as a troubleshooter during the broadcasts.

Jacobs' association with USA goes back to the early-'80s, when he left his job as director of marketing and sales for an indoor soccer league in California to work for Tampa boxing promoter Phil Alessi. Jacobs was brought over by his friend, Ken Rosenberg, who served as Alessi's matchmaker. After Rosenberg became ill, Jacobs assumed the role. ("At the time," he admits, "I didn't know the difference between a welterweight and a featherweight.") Through the decade, Alessi ran some 70 shows televised by USA.

Eventually, Jacobs felt it was time to move on to different challenges.

"Part of being a promoter means staying up till three in the morning to find fighters for a four-round fight," he said. "Now I let someone else worry about that."



In his current role, Jacobs describes fight night as "organized chaos."

"On the TV end, we're very organized and prepared for anything that might happen," he said. "The problem is the boxers, the promoters, the commissions, the intangibles that we can't control."

Jacobs tells of an incident that occurred at a show in California. The fighters were in the ring and the announcer had taken the microphone, when one of the commissioners stopped everything because there was no oxygen tank present, as required by the state rules.

"It took 35 minutes to get a tank, and we just sat there and ran taped features," he recalled. "I think I finally wound up calling an ambulance company to bring an oxygen tank."

Jacobs acknowledges that the face of TV boxing is changing. He believes that pay-per-view will have a positive effect on the boxing cards offered by USA because of the effect it is having on the free networks.

"Those networks have dramatically reduced the number of dates they are having," he said, "which means that a $150,000 weekend fight that would have been shown by one of them may now be available to us for $30,000 to $40,000.

"But I don't think that pay-per-view will be able to sustain two shows a month because they are asking people to pay for shows they're used to seeing on Saturday afternoon on network TV. Pay-per-view is asking people to go to their pockets on a regular basis. People will do it for Tyson, Holyfield, and Foreman, but not for Carl Williams-Tim Witherspoon. I think it will wear itself out, except for the big fights."

"My work with USA is very challenging, though, at times, it can be discouraging, too," he said. "You work hard to get everything set, and follow through to the night of the fight, and it ends in a one-round knockout, like the Tommy Morrison-Pinklon Thomas fight in Kansas City."

Nonetheless, Jacobs says, "It feels good when you're flying home after a show and you hear people on the plane say to each other, 'Hey, did you see that fight last night?' " ■

Ken Knox is The Ring's correspondent in Florida.

WBC WBA IBF
RATINGS

WBC as of January
WBA as of January
IBF as of February

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	1
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	2	2	2
George Foreman (USA)	3	3	4
James Douglas (USA)	4	8	10
Gary Mason (GB)	5	4	9
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	6	6	11
Renaldo Snipes (USA)	7	-	-
Alex Stewart (JAM)	8	-	8
Mark Wills (USA)	9	-	-
Carl Williams (USA)	10	7	3
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	5	5
Riddick Bowe (USA)	13	9	6
Bruce Seldon (USA)	16	10	12
Tony Tucker (USA)	-	-	7

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	C	-	-
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	1	4	8
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	2	8	-
Johnny Nelson (GB)	3	11	9
Taoufik Belbouli (FRA)	4	1	-
Mike Hunter (USA)	5	2	6
Derek Angol (GB)	6	3	-
James Warring (USA)	7	5	5
Nate Miller (USA)	8	7	7
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	-	-
Craig Peterson (AUSTRL)	10	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	-	C	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	6	-
Bash Ali (USA)	-	9	3
Richard Mason (USA)	11	10	1
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	-	-	C
Siza Makathini (SA)	-	-	2
Iby Zimmerman (CAU)	-	-	4
Glenn McCrory (GB)	-	12	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Dennis Andries (GB)	C	-	-
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	1	3	9
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	2	6	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	3	-	2
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	4	2	7
Yawe Davis (UGA)	5	-	-
David Vedder (USA)	6	9	-
Frank Tate (USA)	7	-	6
Booker Word (USA)	8	1	3
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	9	7	4
Joe Lasisi (NIG)	10	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	C	-
Frank Winterstein (FRA)	-	4	-
Mike Peak (USA)	-	5	-
Andrew Maynard (USA)	12	8	-
Alex Blanchard (USA)	14	10	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
James Kinchen (USA)	11	-	1
Freddie Delgado (PR)	22	-	5
Vincent Boulware (USA)	-	-	8
Uriah Grant (USA)	19	-	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Ron Essett (USA)	1	4	4
Tony Byrd (USA)	2	2	1
Frank Winterstein (FRA)	3	-	11
Lou Cafaro (AUSTRL)	4	10	-
Dan Schommer (USA)	5	-	-
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	6	9	-
Victor Cordova (PAN)	7	1	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	8	8	5
Nelson Aviles (GER)	9	-	8
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	10	3	3
Chris Tiozzo (FRA)	-	C	-
Salvador Maciel (MEX)	-	5	-
John Jarvis (USA)	17	6	2
Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN)	12	7	9
Lindell Holmes (USA)	-	-	C
Thulani Malinga (SA)	-	-	6
Segundo Mercado (USA)	-	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Dennis Milton (USA)	1	3	6
Reggie Johnson (USA)	2	2	1
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	3	1	3
Michael Watson (GB)	4	6	4
Steve Collins (USA)	5	5	9
Herol Graham (GB)	6	8	11
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	7	7	-
James Toney (USA)	8	4	10
Gary Stretch (GB)	9	12	12
Nigel Benn (GB)	10	-	-
Mike McCallum (JAM)	-	C	-
Roberto Duran (PAN)	-	9	-
Merqui Sosa (USA)	14	10	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	-	C
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	-	-	2
Matthew Hilton (CAN)	19	-	5
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	15	-	7
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	8

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	1	8	10
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	2	2	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	-	-
Brett Lally (USA)	4	-	7
Carlos Elliott (JAP)	5	1	8
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	6	4	-
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	7	9	1
Quincy Taylor (USA)	8	-	6
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	9	-	-
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	10	-	-
Jun Sok Hwang (KOR)	14	3	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	-	5	-
Carl Daniels (USA)	27	6	-
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	20	7	-
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	10	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Ron Amundsen (USA)	-	12	3
Donald Curry (USA)	-	-	4
Roy Jones (USA)	-	-	5
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	15	-	9

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Maurice Blocker (USA)	C	-	-
Buddy McGirt (USA)	1	2	1
Glenwood Brown (USA)	2	3	2
Marlon Starling (USA)	3	-	4
Engels Pedroza (VEN)	4	11	-
Mark Breland (USA)	5	6	6
Jose Bermudez (COL)	6	12	-
Genaro Leon (MEX)	7	10	12
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	8	4	-
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	9	7	10
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	10	8	7
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Luis Garcia (VEN)	-	1	3
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	11	5	-
Jorge Bracamonte (ARG)	15	9	-
Simon Brown (USA)	-	-	C
Aaron Davis (USA)	-	-	5
Curtis Summit (USA)	-	-	8
Carl Daniels (USA)	-	-	9

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	C
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	1	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	2	2	-
Roger Mayweather (USA)	3	5	3
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	4	-	-
John Duplessis (USA)	5	-	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	6	3	6
Harold Brazier (USA)	7	-	4
Marco Lizarraga (MEX)	8	-	10
Pat Barrett (GB)	9	6	7
Lonnie Smith (USA)	10	-	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	23	1	-
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-4	-	
Mun Sil Chi (KOR)	18	7	-
Terrence Ali (USA)	-	9	9
Julio Barria (CHILE)	17	10	-
Rodney Moore (USA)	15	11	5
Loreto Garza (USA)	-	C	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	11	8	1
Charles Murray (USA)	13	-	2
Santos Cardona (USA)	-	-	8

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	C	C
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	1	3	-
Poli Diaz (SPA)	2	1	7
Darryl Tyson (USA)	3	6	3
Tracy Spann (USA)	4	2	1
Anthony Jones (USA)	5	8	6
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	6	-	2
Carl Crook (GB)	7	-	-
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	8	12	5
Tae Jin Moon (KOR)	9	11	-
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	10	-	-
Juan Nazario (PR)	15	4	9
William Rojas (VEN)	-	5	-
Iwao Otomo (JAP)	13	7	-
Ricardo Toledo (CHI)	-	9	-
Omar Flores (MEX)	23	10	-
Eduardo Molina (COL)	22	-	4
John Duplessis (USA)	-	-	8
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	-	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	1	4	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	2	2	12
Bernard Taylor (USA)	3	-	8
John-John Molina (PR)	4	-	1
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	5	-	-
Takeyuki Akagi (JAP)	6	10	-
Rowdy Welch (USA)	7	-	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	8	-	-
Joey Gamache (USA)	9	3	6
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	10	11	7
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	C	-
Anibal Nieves (VEN)	23	1	-
Daniel Londas (FRA)	-	5	-
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	6	3
Frankie Mitchell (USA)	15	7	10
Rudy Cabiles (PHIL)	21	8	11
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	29	9	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	-	C
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	17	-	2
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	4
Jose Sanabria (VEN)	-	-	5
Calvin Grove (USA)	27	-	9

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	C	-	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	1	3	2
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	2	5	-
Louie Espinoza (USA)	3	-	6
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Eloy Rojas (VEN)	6	1	-
Ever Beleno (COL)	7	-	-
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	8	-	5
Alfred Rangel (USA)	9	10	3
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	10	-	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	C	-
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	4	-
Harold Warren (USA)	-	7	-
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	12	8	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	9	10
Jorge Paez (MEX)	-	-	C
Troy Dorsey (USA)	14	-	1
Tom Johnson (USA)	15	-	7
Jose Rodriguez (PR)	-	-	8
Steve McCrory (USA)	-	-	9

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pedro Decima (ARG)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	2	3
Jesse Benavides (USA)	2	3	2
Paul Banke (USA)	3	7	12
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	4	-	-
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	5	-	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	6	-	8
Arcelio Diaz (COL)	7	5	5
Ki Jun Lee (KOR)	8	-	-
Freddy Cruz (DR)	9	4	-
Yun Sup Park (KOR)	10	-	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	-	C	-
Carlos Uribe (CHILE)	14	1	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	11	6	6
Ruben Palacios (COL)	25	8	-
Noree Jockygym (THAI)	15	9	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	-	10	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Baby Rojas (USA)	27	-	1
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	-	4
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	-	-	7
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	-	-	9
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	-	-	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Raul Perez (MEX)	C	-	-
Akeem Anifowoshe (NIG)	1	-	-
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	2	-	7
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	3	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	4	6	4
Eun Sik Lee (KOR)	5	5	-
Billy Hardy (GB)	6	-	1
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	7	-	8
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	8	4	-
Hector Acero (DR)	9	11	-
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	10	-	-
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	C	-
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	1	2
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	-	2	6
Eliecher Julio (COL)	28	3	-
Abraham Torres (VEN)	-	7	-
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	8	-
Yun Chun Min (KOR)	14	9	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	12	10	3
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Duke McKenzie (GB)	-	-	5
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	16	-	9
Javier Leon (MEX)	13	-	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Nana Konadu (GHA)	1	-	-
Johnny Tapia (USA)	2	7	4
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	3	3	-
Rey Paciones (PHIL)	4	2	2
Armando Salazar (MEX)	5	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	6	-	-
Thanomsak Sithbaobey (THAI)	7	4	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	8	8	-
David Griman (VEN)	9	1	-
Carlos Mercado (COL)	10	10	1
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Akeem Anifowoshe (NIG)	-	5	5
William Ramos (PR)	-	6	-
Juan Polo (COL)	15	9	6
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	-	-	3
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	7
Satoshi Shingaki (JAP)	-	-	8
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	-	-	9
Marianus (INDO)	18	12	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	C	-	-
Jung Koo Chang (KOR)	1	-	-
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	2	6	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	3	-	-
Richard Clarke (JAM)	4	-	5
Pat Clinton (GB)	5	9	-
Yul Woo Lee (KOR)	6	5	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	7	-	10
Jae Suk Park (KOR)	8	-	-
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	9	-	-
Dodi Penalosa (PHIL)	10	3	2
Leopard Tamakuma (JAP)	-	C	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	-	1	-
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	-	2	1
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	21	4	-
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	18	7	-
Torsak Osoisapa (THAI)	-	8	4
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	14	10	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Tongchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	3
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	6
Al Kotey (GHA)	26	-	7
Ricky Romero (USA)	15	-	8
Johanes Nanlohi (INDO)	-	-	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	C	-	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	1	-	1
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	2	8	3
Katzumi Komiyama (JAP)	3	-	-
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	4	1	-
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	5	3	-
Jeung Keun Lim (KOR)	6	-	-
Jorge Rivera (MEX)	7	-	9
Kimio Hirano (JAP)	8	-	-
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	9	11	5
Jerry Penalosa (PHIL)	10	-	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	C	-
Kajkong Danphoothai (THAI)	-	2	-
Leo Gamez (VEN)	13	4	-
Juan Torres (PAN)	28	5	-
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	6	-
Hector Patri (ARG)	-	7	-
Jacob Matlala (SA)	-	9	-
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	-	10	2
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Leon Salazar (PAN)	12	-	4
Antonio Perez (MEX)	15	-	6
Macario Santos (MEX)	-	-	7
Tacy Macalos (PHIL)	-	-	8
Rey Hernandez (MEX)	14	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	1	-	-
Hector Patri (ARG)	2	-	5
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	3	6	8
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	4	2	7
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	5	12	2
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	6	1	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	7	11	3
Javier Varguez (MEX)	8	-	-
Macario Santos (MEX)	9	-	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	10	5	1
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	-	3	-
Katsumi Komiyama (JAP)	-	4	-
Danny Nunez (DR)	12	7	-
Kimio Hirano (JAP)	-	8	-
Silverio Barcenas (PAN)	-	9	9
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	-	10	-
Far-Lan Lookmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	4
Eric Chavez (PHIL)	17	-	6
Joe Constantino (PHIL)	-	-	10

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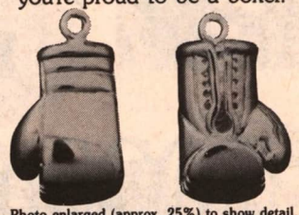

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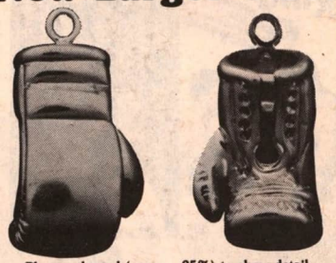

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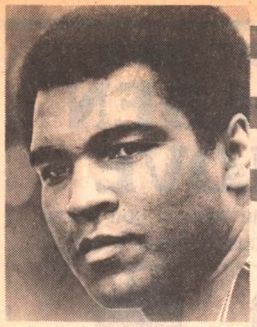

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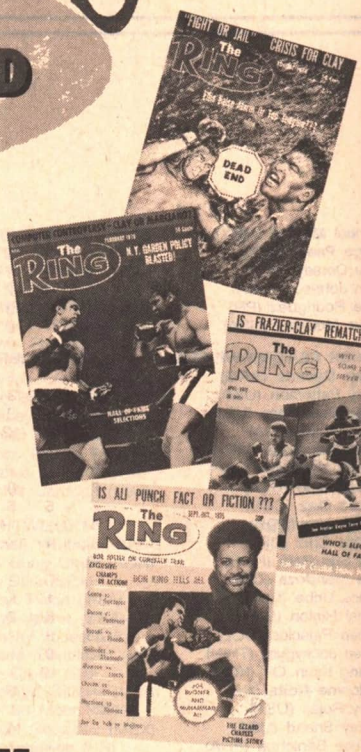

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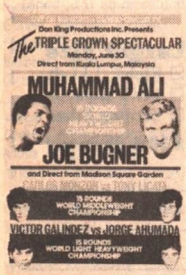

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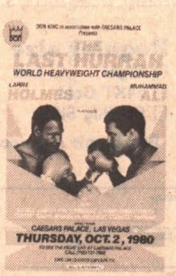

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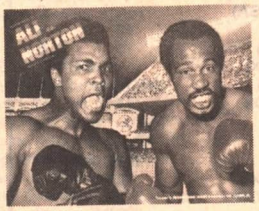

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The RING CLASSIC

PHILLY BOOMS BRISCOE AS COMING CHAMP

From The Ring, May 1972

By Joseph Bevans Bush

In North Philly's teeming black colony, they call him "Baaaad Bennie." And for good reason. He is one of the most feared punchers in the middleweight division and, pound for pound, one of the strongest men in the ring today. Bennie Briscoe has held middleweight champion Carlos Monzon to a draw and has scored a kayo over Vicente Rondon, the number-one light heavyweight contender.

Recalling the Monzon fight, Briscoe says, "Carlos and I fought 10 tough rounds four years ago down in Buenos Aires, and the bout was called a draw. I've never been a man to argue about decisions, but the fight was held in his hometown, so for them to give me a draw, I must've won. At any rate, I always thought I did. One thing for sure, the cat has never had 'eyes' for a rematch."

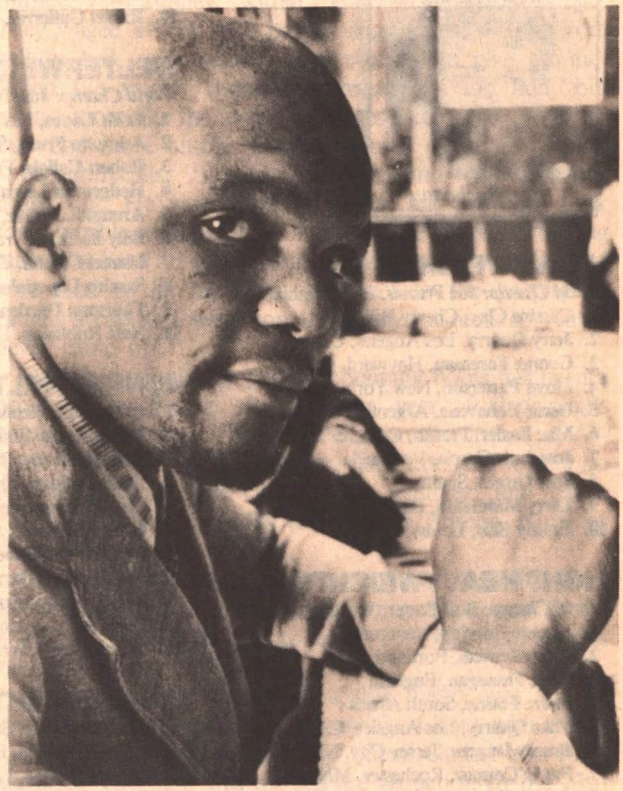
Judging from Briscoe's record in return bouts, Monzon should avoid him incessantly. And he has. The muscular, bald-headed Philadelphian has reversed all but three of his losses. His overall record is 40-9-2, including 33 kayos.

Bennie's most recent conquest of a former conqueror came last summer in a bout at the Spectrum. The victim was Brazil's Juarez DeLima, who was stopped in two rounds. DeLima had gained a 10-round nod over Bennie a couple of years before in New York.

So, like Percy Manning, Tito Marshall, Vicente Rondon, and Joe Shaw, all of whom decisioned Briscoe the first time around, Juarez DeLima ended up knocked out by Briscoe in a rematch.

As one of the regulars at Champ's Gym observed, "To fight Bennie Briscoe once, a cat's gonna be mighty brave. To fight him twice, he's gotta be outta his mind."

Champ's Gymnasium is housed in a building at 2305 Ridge Avenue, in the heart of North Philadelphia's "Soulville." Every day Bennie Briscoe goes faithfully to that address and climbs the rickety stairs to the second floor.



Philadelphia middleweight contender Bennie Briscoe wants a second try at world champion Carlos Monzon. They fought to a draw in May 1967.

Here he works out under the scrutiny of Quenzall McCall. One of the best trainers in boxing, Quen has tutored Percy Bassett, Jimmy Champagne, and former lightweight contender Lenny Matthews.

"I've been in the boxing business most of my life," says McCall, "and I have handled countless fighters. However, few have been less difficult to work with than Bennie. The guy doesn't drink or smoke. He trains religiously, follows instructions well, and is a good family

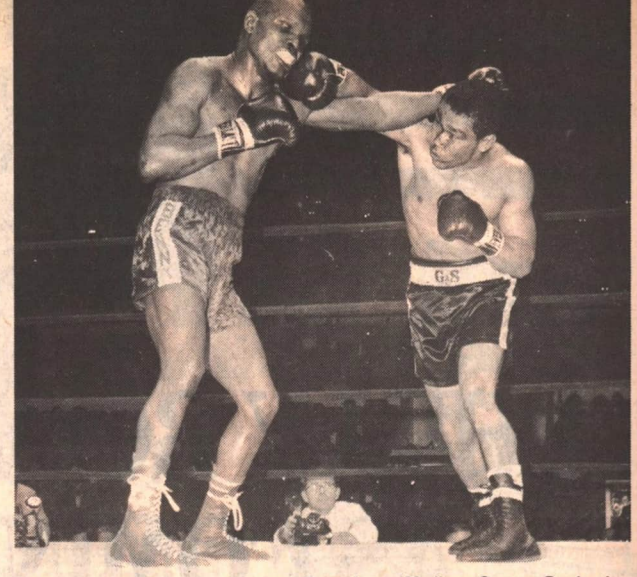
man. I would say he's a trainer's dream."

A philosopher has said, "Patience is a virtue." However, were he around today, he would get a lot of static from Bennie Briscoe.

Briscoe has been a contender for a long time. In fact, back in 1964 he kayoed Charley Scott in one round to annex the Pennsylvania welterweight championship. He was looked on as a man destined to be world champion. But, no such thing. The welter and middleweight titles have changed hands more times than a dollar bill in a North Philly streetcorner craps game, and "Baaaad Bennie" is still waiting patiently for his shot.

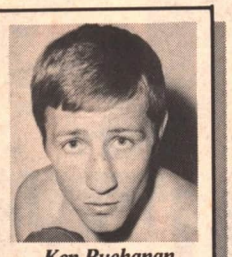
"It seems like everybody has had a crack at the title but me," laments Briscoe. "Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, everybody. Now, I ain't never been the kinda cat to begrudge any man his due, but some of those clowns who have fought for the title would hardly be good sparrin' partners for me."

Maybe Bennie is too good for his own good. A couple of years ago, when Nino Benvenuti was training for one of his title tilts with Emile Griffith, Briscoe was hired as a



Briscoe crosses swords with Jose Gonzalez at Madison Square Garden in March 1969. The Philadelphian scored a fifth-round stoppage.

THE RING RATINGS, *May 1972*



Ken Buchanan

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Joe Frazier**, Philadelphia, PA

1. **Cassius Clay**, Cherry Hill, NJ
2. **Jerry Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
3. **George Foreman**, Hayward, CA
4. **Floyd Patterson**, New York, NY
5. **Oscar Bonavena**, Argentina
6. **Mac Foster**, Fresno, CA
7. **Jose Luis Garcia**, Venezuela
8. **Jose Urtain**, Spain
9. **Larry Middleton**, Baltimore, MD
10. **Jimmy Ellis**, Louisville, KY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Bob Foster**, Washington, D.C.

1. **Vicente Rondon**, Venezuela
2. **Andy Kendall**, Portland, OR
3. **Chris Finnegan**, England
4. **Pierre Fourie**, South Africa
5. **Mike Quarry**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Jimmy Dupree**, Jersey City, NJ
7. **Pat O'Connor**, Rochester, MN
8. **Conny Velensek**, Germany
9. **Larry Buck**, Seattle, WA
10. **Brian Kelly**, Cushing, OK

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Carlos Monzon**, Argentina

1. **Jean-Claude Bouttier**, France
2. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
3. **Bennie Briscoe**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
5. **Bunny Sterling**, England
6. **Rodrigo Valdez**, Colombia
7. **Miguel de Oliviera**, Brazil
8. **Koichi Wajima**, Japan
9. **Eugene Hart**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Rafael Gutierrez**, Mexico

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Jose Napoles**, Mexico

1. **Ernie Lopez**, Las Vegas, NV
2. **Adolpho Pruitt**, St. Louis, MO
3. **Robert Gallois**, France
4. **Hedgemon Lewis**, Detroit, MI
5. **Armando Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Billy Backus**, Syracuse, NY
7. **Marcel Cerdan**, France
8. **Sandro Lopopolo**, Italy
9. **Thurman Durden**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Nate Robinson**, Los Angeles, CA

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Nicolino Locche**, Argentina

1. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
2. **Joao Henrique**, Brazil
3. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
4. **Jimmy Robertson**, San Francisco, CA
5. **Carlos Gimenez**, Argentina
6. **Paco Flores**, Phoenix, AZ
7. **Jeff White**, Australia
8. **Rodolfo Gonzalez**, Long Beach, CA
9. **Eagle Sato**, Japan
10. **Johnny Gant**, Washington, D.C.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ken Buchanan**, Scotland

1. **Antonio Puddu**, Italy
2. **Mando Ramos**, Long Beach, CA
3. **Pedro Carrasco**, Spain
4. **Al Ford**, Canada
5. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
6. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
7. **Shinichi Kadota**, Japan
8. **Alfonso Frazier**, Panama
9. **Raymundo Dias**, Brazil
10. **Raul Venerdini**, Argentina

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Alfredo Marcano**, Venezuela

1. **Frankie Otero**, Miami, FL
2. **William Martinez**, Nicaragua
3. **Jose Luis Lopez**, Mexico
4. **Sammy Goss**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Ruben Navarro**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Ray Lampkin**, Portland, OR
7. **Ugo Poli**, Italy
8. **Jose Marin**, Costa Rica
9. **Frankie Crawford**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Rene Barrientos**, Philippines

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Kuniaki Shibata**, Japan

1. **Ricardo Arredondo**, Mexico
2. **Ernesto Marcel**, Panama
3. **Antonio Gomez**, Venezuela
4. **Ben Villaflor**, Philippines
5. **Jose Legra**, Spain
6. **Eder Jofre**, Brazil
7. **Clemente Sanchez**, Mexico
8. **Shozo Saijyo**, Japan
9. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
10. **Tahar Ben Hasson**, Tunisia

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Ruben Olivares**, Mexico

1. **Rodolfo Martinez**, Mexico
2. **Rafael Herrera**, Mexico
3. **Chucho Castillo**, Mexico
4. **Jesus Pimental**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Enrique Pinder**, Panama
6. **Augustin Senin**, Spain
7. **Alan Rudkin**, England
8. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
9. **Rogelio Lara**, Mexico
10. **Chartchai Chionoi**, Thailand

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Erbito Salavarria**, Philippines

1. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
2. **Masao Ohba**, Japan
3. **Servillo de Oliviera**, Brazil
4. **Lorenzo Gutierrez**, Mexico
5. **Miguel Canto**, Mexico
6. **Venice Borkorsor**, Thailand
7. **Ricardo Delgado**, Mexico
8. **Fernando Atzori**, Italy
9. **Fernando Cabanela**, Philippines
10. **Orlando Amoros**, Panama

sparring partner by the Italian's camp. After a few rounds of boxing, he was fired.

"I guess I hit Nino too hard and too often," laughs Bennie. "Anyhow, they told me to pack my bags."

Born in Augusta, Georgia, Briscoe is from a family of 14 children (10 boys and four girls). His father stands 6'2", and his mother is of average height. All of Bennie's brothers are well over 6-feet. His sisters, like his mom, are average in height. Briscoe is the oldest child, and at 5'9", the shortest boy.

Bennie moved to Philadelphia—his parents and their other children still live in Georgia—as a pudgy 200-pound teenager. He started boxing in the amateurs while a student at Simon Gratz High School in North Philly in 1957.

He won three Middle Atlantic AAU championships in the welterweight class. In 1962, he was runnerup in the nationals.

In 1960, he made a bid for the United States Olympic team. He advanced to the finals of the Trials. In those Trials was a young man from Louisville, Kentucky, name of Cassius Clay.

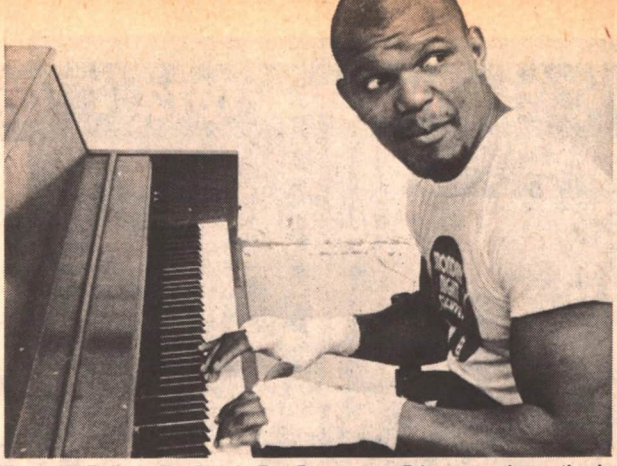
A beloved hero in his hometown, Briscoe strikes a playful pose with Snoopy at City Hall. Philadelphia Deputy Mayor Dan McKenna looks on.

Says Briscoe, "He was a friendly cat who seemed to be in love with the world. Of course, at that time I called him Cassius Clay, as that was what he called himself. Today, I call him Muhammad Ali, and for the same reason. Unlike another fighter in Philly, I ain't against callin' him by that name. Also, I was glad to see him get 'cool' with the government in that draft thing."

Bennie, his attractive wife Rita, and their two children, Tracey Denise, age four, and Bennie Jr., age two, live in a comfortable row house in the 3000 block of north 24th Street. Rita attends all his fights and feels, "My Bennie will be champ as soon as he is given the opportunity to box that fellow Monzon again. He is a good husband and father. He wants the best for his family."

In this time when young men can't grow their hair long enough, Briscoe is rather unique. The 28-year-old slugger sports a bald head that rivals Yul Brynner's. He has worn (or maybe *not worn* is more appropriate) his hair in such a manner all his life.

"You see, my parents have 10 sons," he said. "So you can just imagine the bread needed for haircuts. So when we were kids, in order that he got his money's worth, Pop would tell the barber to keep cuttin' until there was



From the Fighters Are People Too Department: Briscoe, so destructive in the ring, shows a sensitive side while taking a break during training.

nothing left. I got used to it and now it's a part of me. I don't go to the barber's anymore, I do it myself with Magic Shave. I don't feel I would look right with hair after all of these years of being bald."

When "Baaaad Bennie" hits his foes, he hurts them, and they hurt all night long and for days to come. Even when he comes up on the short end of the decision, he has been known to send the other guy to the hospital.

Such was the case the night he fought that grueling 10-rounder with Stanley "Kitten" Hayward a few years ago. They waged a heck of a battle, slugging each other from bell to bell, with neither man wanting to give ground. When the smoke cleared, Hayward got the nod, but looked more like the loser. Both eyes were puffed, and his face had more bumps than a country road.

Bennie recalls, "It was a real war, and we fought our hearts out. He won a split decision, and we both took some terrible wallops. After the fight, he ended up talking outta his head in the dressin' room, cryin' and pleadin' with God to let him live. He went to the hospital. I caught a cab and went home. I wanted a rematch, but it never came off."

Due to his punishing punch, obtaining bouts has been a problem for Bennie. In the past year, Philadelphia's youthful promoter, J. Russell Peltz, brother-in-law of Arnold Weiss, Briscoe's manager, has extended offers to Freddie Little, Curtis Cokes, Don Fullmer, and Emile Griffith to come to Philly and oppose Briscoe. None of them indicated any interest.

Briscoe appears to be almost a sure bet to get his long-awaited title fight this year. In fact, negotiations are in the works to induce Monzon to come to Philly and defend against him for $100,000.

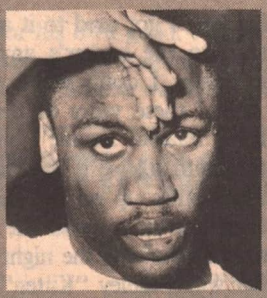
Briscoe's 10-year dream of a title match was all but shattered in November of last year in a bout with Mexico's hard-punching middleweight Rafael Gutierrez in Philadelphia. The fight was the feature attraction of the 23rd annual Deborah Hospital Fight for Life benefit show. Bennie was appearing as a substitute for ailing Cyclone Hart.

Weighing in at 161 to his opponent's 164, Briscoe, who had been decked only twice in his career, walked right into a short, power-packed right hand and was in a world of trouble with just 30 seconds of the first round gone. He staggered drunkenly as Gutierrez bombarded him with a series of blows, and down he went. It was almost unbelievable. The heretofore indestructible Bennie Briscoe was flat on his back.

THE RING, May 1972

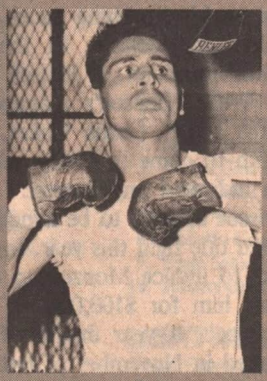
The Cover: Heavyweights Oscar Bonavena and Floyd Patterson clashed in a crossroads heavyweight matchup at Madison Square Garden, and while the former champion was awarded a unanimous decision, *The Ring's* Nat Fleischer and his staff thought Bonavena had clearly won. Patterson's goal: a crack at Joe Frazier and a chance to regain the world title for a second time.

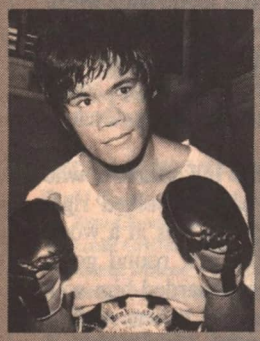
Frazier's Future: Examining the future of heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, Associate Editor Dan Daniel reports that "Smokin' Joe" will next defend against Jerry Quarry and earn $500,000. As it turns out, Frazier would kayo clubfighter Ron Stander and, in January 1973, suffer a brutal kayo vs. George Foreman.



Going For The Gold: Turner Dozier profiles 21-year-old quartermaster third-class Duane Bobick, an amateur heavyweight with a record of 67-9, including 30 straight wins. Bobick, the All-Navy and Interservice champion, is aiming for a spot on the 1972 U.S. Olympic team. He did, of course, make the team, and was kayoed by Cuba's Teofilo Stevenson in the quarterfinals in Munich.

Credit Where It's Due: Former light heavyweight contender Danny Nardico (pictured), now an employee of the state of Nevada, knocked out Jake LaMotta in eight rounds in December 1952, and wonders why LaMotta fails to acknowledge the defeat. "I don't want myself derogated as LaMotta must like the people to believe," he said. "LaMotta wasn't beaten by some fluke of a fighter."

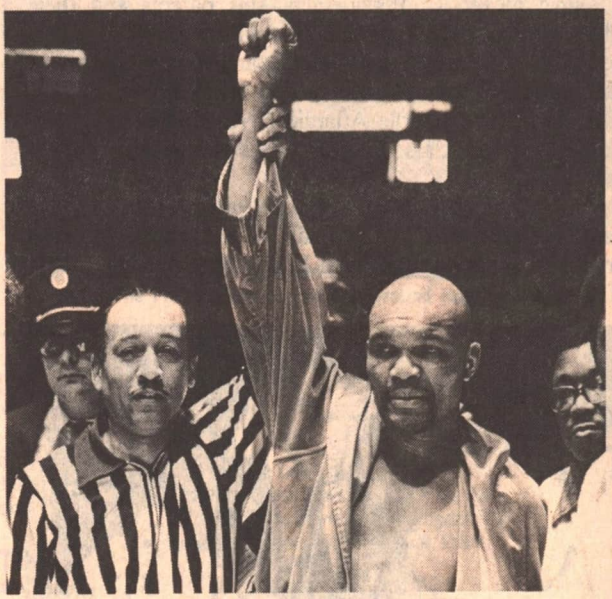




Fighter Of The Month: Floyd Patterson is selected for his disputed decision over Oscar Bonavena. Other fighters given mention: Englishman Chris Finnegan, who won the European light heavyweight title by defeating Conny Velensek; Mando Ramos, who moved up at lightweight by topping Pedro Carrasco; Filipino featherweight Ben Villaflor (pictured), who bested Frankie Crawford.

Instinctively, Bennie struggled to his feet to be met by another volley that sent him once again to the canvas. He had taken so many terrible shots that, had the fight been held anywhere but in his hometown, it would've been stopped.

But the bald-headed Briscoe is a man of awesome strength and fierce pride. He once more picked himself off the deck, and with his eyes rolling in his head, stood toe to toe with the Mexican, who was trying desperately to put him down for the fight-ending third time. Briscoe,



After a victory at the Spectrum, Briscoe is acknowledged by referee Tom Reed. "Baaaad Bennie" was seeking his first shot at the world title.

still in a daze, started to get off some of his own bombs and, at the bell, an earth-shaking left hook to the body dropped Rafael to his knees.

Quenzall McCall plopped Bennie down on the stool (Briscoe usually stands during the minute respite) and worked feverishly to get his man in shape for round two. The bell sounded with Briscoe charging from his corner like an enraged panther, putting every ounce of himself into each punch, and at 2:17 of the round, his opponent was counted out on his hands and knees after a tremendous left-right dropped him to the floor.

No matter how his boxing career develops, Briscoe intends to keep his job with Philadelphia's federally funded Rat Control Program. Floyd Jackson, a co-worker, feels "Bennie is well-liked by the other cats on the job. I used to box in the Army, and sometimes on our lunch break, he and I throw a few at each other. The other men really eat it up."

Briscoe wants to be middleweight champion. He wants this not only to justify the years of punching and being punched, but for Rita and the kids. In addition, he plans to do something for the youngsters in the crowded streets of North Philly. Says Bennie, "With the money I can make as champion, maybe I can start a boys club or somethin'. I believe in giving somethin' back to the community. After all, these are the people who pay their hard-earned dough to see me fight."

"Baaaad Bennie" Briscoe fought six times last year and scored six kayos. If his handlers are able to get Carlos Monzon to come to Philly and defend against him, and if Briscoe's fantastic return-bout record holds up, he may be middleweight champion of the world this year. ■

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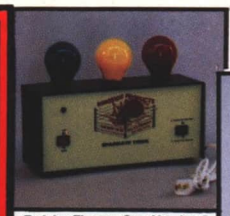
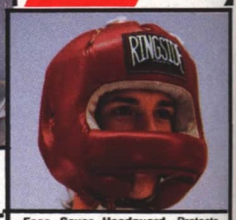


Training Timers—Spar-Mate has 2 & 3 min. work cycle, 1 min. rest, 30 sec. end of round. #SM $115.00. Personal Spar-Mate, 3 min./1 min. cycle. #PSM $59.00.



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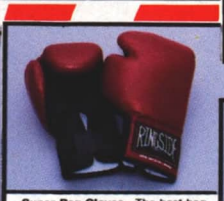
No Foul Protector—Used by amateurs and pros. #RPNF $45.00. No hip style. #RPNF-1 $44.00, new Mexican style #RPNF-2 $36.00. S,M,L,XL.



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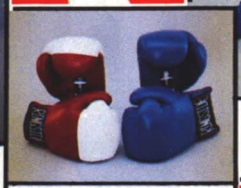

Competition Gloves—USA/ABF approved. Available in solid red or blue and red or blue with white knuckle surface. All leather #SGA (Red or Blue with White Knuckle) 10 oz., 12 oz. #SGS (Solid Red or Blue) 10 oz., $110.00; 12 oz. $115.00

Mouthpieces—Black Beauty form fits to each tooth. #BBMP $4.25, 801 mouthpiece just boil and bite, #801 80c, 799 mouthpiece protects top and bottom teeth, #799 $1.80.

Power Bag Gloves—Weight system adjusts the weight of gloves up to 3½ pounds. All leather construction. Hook & loop closure. Great Cardiovascular training. #PBG $44.00.

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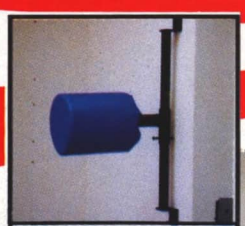
Double End Bags—All leather. Cables included. Reg. size #DEB, small #DEB-1, Peanut #DEB-2, Mini Pro #DEB-3 $36.00, Filled #FDEB $44.00, Double Double End #DDEB $70.00.

Rib Protector—Great for sparring with sore ribs. Unique design provides great protection. #BRP $18.00.



Wall Ball—Great for learning hooks and uppercuts. Uses wall space that usually goes to waste. All steel frame. #WLB $110.00.

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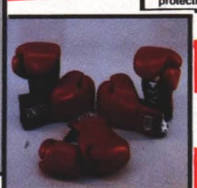

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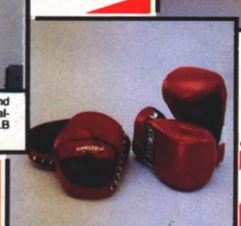
Cobra Reflex Bag—Super fast spring for hand speed, stability. #CRB (filled) $90.00, #CRBU (unfilled) $75.00. Professional model is heavy duty. #CRB-1 (filled) $110.00, #CRBU-1 (unfilled) $90.00.



Punch Mitts—Great for learning offense. #PM $45.00.
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